

Office of the Director • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*bc*

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : SAC, Little Rock (105-133)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: 12-16-55

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~DATE 4/16/01 BY 60267NLS~~

958421 EP/LH

Re Memphis letter dated 12-13-55 reflecting interview with ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary, Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi.

JAMES D. JOHNSON, Crossett, Arkansas, has not furnished to agents of this office a copy of the recording referred to by PATTERSON in relet. JOHNSON further has not furnished agents any information regarding contents of this recording, and no contact has been had with JOHNSON other than that previously reported to the Bureau.

Any information in the possession of the Memphis Division which would reflect that JAMES D. JOHNSON, of Crossett, Arkansas, reported to ROBERT B. PATTERSON that he had furnished such recording should be made available to this office as such would be a complete misrepresentation of the facts and would further reflect the lack of sincerity and honesty on the part of JOHNSON, who is apparently utilizing the segregation movement as political expedience to support his intended candidacy for governor of the state of Arkansas, during the next election.

- (2) - Bureau (105-34237) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Memphis (105-121) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 2 - Little Rock (105-133) (105-134)

AMB/rp  
(5)

105-34237-11

RECORDED - 79

20 DEC 19 1955

EX-124

WMA  
12-21-55

FBI - MEMPHIS

cc - [redacted]  
b6  
b7C  
  
Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

December 16, 1955

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/14/03 BY 60347NLS

9/18/421 EP/LH

Reference is made to your memorandum dated November 22, 1955, captioned "The Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi, The American States Rights Association, and the Citizens Council of Humphreys County, Mississippi - Belzoni Chapter" and my reply thereto dated November 29, 1955; your memorandum dated December 2, 1955, captioned "Citizens Council of Humphreys County, Mississippi" and my reply thereto dated December 8, 1955; your memorandum dated December 9, 1955, captioned "Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi"; your memorandum dated December 9, 1955, captioned "Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi, American States' Rights Association" and your memorandum dated December 12, 1955, captioned "Citizens Councils and States Rights Movements." All of your memoranda concerned the investigation of the citizens councils of Mississippi.

The Memphis and New Orleans Offices of this Bureau are being instructed to intensify the investigation being conducted concerning the citizens councils in Mississippi. The Birmingham Office of this Bureau has been instructed to intensify its investigation of the American States' Rights Association. The results of these investigations will be furnished you as heretofore.

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

2cc - SAC, Memphis (W/Enclosures - 2) See Note to Sacs Page Two

2cc - SAC, New Orleans (W/Enclosures - 2) See Note to Sacs Page Two

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Birmingham instructed previously to intensify inquiries of American States' Rights Association.

CFW:dae (9) 11-1955

RECORDED - 71

11-1955  
BEG 19.357002

11-1955  
BEG 19.357002

Letter to Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

**NOTE TO SACS, MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS:**

By memorandum dated November 22, 1955, the Department advised that a review of reports submitted concerning the shooting of Reverend George Wesley Lee, also known as Willie George Lee, as well as reports on the captioned organization, reflects allegations against members of the Citizens Council of Belzoni, Mississippi, concerning the use of threats, intimidation and economic pressure in connection with their activities. It was also noted that two suspects in the murder of Reverend George Lee are reported as members of the Citizens Council at Belzoni. In view of these facts, the Department requested that a further investigation be conducted of the Citizens Council at Belzoni to determine if its activities come within the purview of Executive Order 10450. The Department instructed that the investigation should determine particularly if any threats, intimidations, economic pressures and violence used by individuals can be traced to the citizens council as a group advocating or approving such activities to deny others their rights under the Constitution.

In its memorandum of December 2, 1955, the Department pointed out instances of the use of economic pressure as alleged by informants and requested that further investigation be conducted. A copy of this memorandum, which is self-explanatory, is being furnished the Memphis and New Orleans Offices. Humphreys County is within the territory covered by the Memphis Office. Therefore, Memphis is instructed to comply with the request of the Department contained in this memorandum.

By memorandum dated December 9, 1955, the Department furnished the Bureau a Photostat of an article captioned "The Victims" which recently appeared in the "New York Post." The article contains allegations of economic pressure being asserted against Negroes in Yazoo County, Mississippi. The Department requested that interviews be conducted with the persons named in the article as having been subjected to economic pressure and advised it should be determined if possible whether the alleged economic pressure is being asserted by individuals or as a result of group action or approval. Memphis and New Orleans are being furnished one Photostat each of this article. Inasmuch as Yazoo County is in the territory covered by New Orleans, that office is instructed to conduct the interviews requested.

*Letter to Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins*

Instructions issued by the Bureau in SAC Letters 55-40 and 55-66 concern inquiries being conducted relative to pro-segregation organizations; however, your investigation of the captioned organization is not an inquiry but a full investigation aimed at obtaining information indicating this organization has adopted or shows a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution. Although the restrictions placed on the field in the above-mentioned SAC Letters do not apply in your investigation of this organization, you are instructed to handle this matter most discreetly in order criticism of the Bureau will be avoided.

The results of your investigation should be submitted in report form to reach the Bureau no later than January 9.

Persons interviewed should be advised that they are being contacted at the request of the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Internal Security Division of the Department of Justice. This statement should not be included in your report.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

~~cc:~~ : SAC, Memphis (105-121)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: 12-13-55

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY 6025NLS  
913421 EPIC

Re Little Rock Air Tel 11-10-55 and prior correspondence.

On 11-25-55, ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary, Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi, Winona, Mississippi, when contacted on another matter relating to Citizens Council activity, reminded SA GEORGE A. EVERETT of the Agent's previous contact for a recording of an alleged speech by an NAACP representative. PATTERSON stated that he now has a copy of the recording and would be glad to furnish it to the Bureau, if it is still desired. His offer was not accepted.

PATTERSON stated that Agents of the Little Rock Division had talked JAMES D. JOHNSON, Crossett, Arkansas, into giving them the record, and that it apparently had gone right into the hands of the NAACP, since ROY WILKINS in New York had made an almost immediate denial of the authenticity of the record. He stated WILKINS could not have made a detailed denial without having had access to the record.

PATTERSON stated that when he had first been contacted for the record he suspected that it might get into the hands of the NAACP, and that was the reason he did not cooperate. He said he does not believe the Bureau let the NAACP have access to the record, but feels sure the Department of Justice, "which has several Negro attorneys in the Civil Rights Section," either let the NAACP have the record or played it for them. PATTERSON then stated that his name was signed to the letter quoted on the Arkansas circular, and he admitted writing the letter to JOHNSON.

PATTERSON also said he would like very much to be completely cooperative with the FBI, which organization he admires more than any other, but it is his duty to the citizens of Mississippi and the entire South to look after their interests first. He stated he would be glad to furnish to the FBI any information which would not be used against the Citizens Council and himself.

RECORDED - 64

INDEXED - 64

- 2 - Bureau (105-34237) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Little Rock (Info) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Memphis (105-121)

26

GAE:BN  
(4)

105-34237

GAE

CJL

ME Letter to Director, 12-13-55

It is pointed out that PATTERSON was not questioned about this matter, but the above was a voluntary statement by him.

SA EVERETT advised FATTERSON that he can rest assured the FBI did not deliver the record or disclose the contents thereof to the NAACP or any unauthorized person, and that the Agent did not know JOHNSON had let Agents have the record.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, Memphis

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

DATE: 12-13-55

~~DATE 4/16/61 BY GUNNIS EP (LMS)~~  
 X91842

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
 OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - X

The St. Louis Division has furnished copies of reports by [redacted] received by that office 10-3-55 and 10-18-55, relating to the interest of the National Citizens Protective Association, Inc. in the reported organization of a council of all anti-segregation groups, headed by a Mr. BARR, which undoubtedly refers to the Federation for Constitutional Government of which JOHN U. BARR, New Orleans, Louisiana, is chairman.

b2  
b7D

The report of SA GEORGE A. EVERETT dated 11-16-55 at Memphis reflects that copies of the "White Sentinel" have been distributed by the captioned association.

On November 25, 1955, ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Winona, Mississippi, advised SA EVERETT that he has had some dealings with the National Citizens Protective Association of St. Louis, but his relations have been "at arm's length," since he does not trust that group and does not consider them to be a bona fide states' rights group. He said he has used their publication, "White Sentinel," and will continue to use it in ways to best serve the interests of captioned association, but that he has no idea of linking the NCPA affiliate with the Citizens Council movement or the Federation for Constitutional Government.

No comment was made to PATTERSON concerning the NCAP, but the above statement by PATTERSON was induced by SA EVERETT's inquiry about the source of the "White Sentinel," copies of which had been sent to SA EVERETT by PATTERSON.

- 2 - Bureau (105-34237) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - St. Louis (100-10834) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - New Orleans (105-492) (Info) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Memphis (105-121)

GAE:BN  
 (5)

RECORDED-32

105-34237-121

EX-102

8 DEC 10 1955

INT S [Signature]

8 DEC 21 1955

**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

FROM *AS* SAC, LITTLE ROCK (105-137)

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES  
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: 12/16/55

ReBulet 12/6/55 requesting that an original and one copy of literature published by groups advocating the maintenance of segregation be forwarded the Bureau by routing slipmarked for the attention of Central Research Section.

Please advise if it will be necessary to forward as exhibits to reports on such groups, material previously forwarded to attention Central Research Section.

PLS:amr  
(3)

RECEIVED  
DATE 4/14/61  
916421

105-34237-12

18 DEC 19 1955

CANTIC



5 LR  
12-2-56  
CRB

cc -

b6  
b7C

SAC, Little Rock (105-137)

December 27, 1955

Director, FBI (105-34237) - *RE*  
RECORDED-48

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND  
STATE'S RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

EX-101

Reurlet dated December 16, 1955.

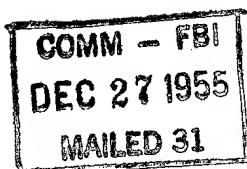
It will not be necessary to forward as  
exhibits to reports material previously furnished  
the Bureau concerning prosegregation organizations.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY 65207NLS/EP/HJ  
91842

PJF  
WCF  
OFM/K

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:amk  
(4) amdr



1956

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Gliney III

December 13, 1955

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY 60-267WLS

RECORDED - 26

W. J. SIMMONS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
JACKSON COUNCIL, ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - Y  
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES  
FBI FILE 105-34237

918421 EP/LSM

EX-107

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 7, 1955, your reference VC:APC:ABC, 146-2-130, 146-1-2402, in which you requested that contact be made with the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Military Intelligence of the United States Army to determine what information is available concerning W. J. Simmons' service in the British Army and the United States Navy and the reasons for his discharge or release from both services.

The information requested by you is being obtained and will be furnished you promptly upon receipt thereof by this Bureau.

2cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

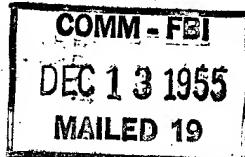
2cc - Washington Field (w/Enclosure)  
ATTENTION SAC, WFO:

There is being furnished you herewith one copy of the referenced memorandum from the Department. You are instructed to review ONI and G-2 records concerning Simmons and furnish all pertinent information contained in those records to the Bureau. Any information concerning Simmons having served in the British Army or British Navy should be included in detail.

For your additional information Simmons was born July 7, 1916, in Jackson, Mississippi. On June 5, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was discharged August 15, 1942, because of a history of psychopathic state of the schizoid type.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:bas  
(8)



WCI

Offutt

EX-3  
W5

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Be*

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : SAC NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI

IS-X

DATE: 12-16-55

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/16/01 BY 46267NMS

91942

RPLM

On December 11, 1955, ARRINGTON WOFFORD HIGH, Edward Lee Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi, was interviewed in connection with statements made by him in case entitled, "UNSUBS, Belzoni, Mississippi; GUS COURTS - VICTIM, CR," New Orleans File #44-713. During the course of this interview, HIGH often started talking of other matters when asked questions concerning exact details. He stated as follows:

The Citizens' Councils of Mississippi are "after" him. [redacted] son of [redacted] the Citizens' Councils in Jackson, has thrown bricks against his home on occasion.

In this regard, local authorities at Jackson, Mississippi, have previously advised that the only occasion wherein a complaint has been received that bricks were thrown against the home of HIGH was some several weeks ago and that four colored teenagers were caught the same night and admitted throwing bricks against his home, but claimed they had no information that it was the home of HIGH. These persons also had bottles of paint to throw and were armed.

HIGH also stated that he understood that J. W. MILAN, defendant in the EMMETT TILL case at Sumner, Mississippi, had been hired by the Citizens' Council to be the trigger man in the killing of the MELTON negro at Glendora, Mississippi, recently. He said also understood that MELTON had been warned that he was going to be killed.

HIGH was questioned as to the source of his information but could only say that "I understand that is true."

HIGH stated that "I am not after the good white people in Mississippi but only after those that lay in bed with colored women" and then go "out and do these things." "It's the bad white people I am after."

FBI (105-34237) (AIR MAIL)

MEMPHIS

NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

eh

for to [redacted]

12-29-55

(fwd)

RECORDED 97 105-34237-128

INDEXED 97

25 DEC 19 1955

EX-126

INTO

NO 105-492

He also volunteered the fact that in his opinion there was no Federal jurisdiction in these cases.

When pressed for details, HIGH became very evasive and usually then made some other charge. He appeared to take the attitude that his word should be taken without question and that it was unnecessary to furnish other details so that the matter might be checked out.

As pointed out in the report of SA [redacted] dated December 13, 1955, at New Orleans, entitled, "UNSUBS, Belzoni, Mississippi; GUS COURTS-VICTIM, CR," NO File #44-713, in connection with a prior investigation in 1954, [redacted] Chief of Detectives, Jackson, Mississippi Police Department, advised that HIGH, FBI #1449208, had the following arrest record:

HIGH was arrested by the Jackson Police Department on January 24, 1938, for forging a Government check, for which he was turned over to Federal authorities. He received a five-year sentence on January 24, 1938, in U. S. District Court. He was received at the U. S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia, on May 10, 1939, and transferred to the Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri, on August 15, 1940. HIGH was later arrested for violation of Federal parole in connection with the above conviction and served about 17 months of the sentence. He was under supervision of U. S. Probation Officer [redacted] Mississippi, and the file of the Police Department indicated that during this supervision [redacted] commented that HIGH was "the type of person who will engage in one swindle scheme after another so long as he is alive and outside a penal institution, and it is indeed regrettable that so damaging a personality has to be allowed to go at large." [redacted] also indicated that the diagnosis of HIGH at the Medical Center at Springfield was, "Psychopathic personality of the swindle type." Further, that he was always visiting around for some type project, usually involving some swindle matter.

Arrested by Jackson Police Department September 27, 1943, on false pretenses. Released.

Arrested April 22, 1944, by Jackson Police Department as swindle violator. Released.

MO 105-492

Arrested October 7, 1945, by Jackson Police Department for soliciting and false pretense. On February 27, 1946, HIGH was fined \$10.00 each on two counts of soliciting and \$15.00 on two counts of false pretense.

Arrested March 29, 1946, for investigation of vagrancy by Jackson Police Department. Released.

Arrested February 10, 1948, by Jackson Police Department for vagrancy. Posted \$50.00 cash bond.

Arrested May 7, 1951, by Jackson Police Department for abusive language and investigation of insanity. HIGH was removed to the Mississippi State Insane Hospital at Whitfield, Mississippi, for observation.

In connection with previous investigation in 1954, [redacted] Superintendent of Mississippi State Hospital, [redacted] Whitfield, advised that his records reflected HIGH was received at this hospital the first time on November 10, 1937, and was discharged on December 17, 1938, with a diagnosis, "Without psychosis, malingerer." According to the records, HIGH had indicated he could not move at all when he was admitted to the hospital, but he was seen at times to be perfectly normal, and appeared that he was attempting to avoid prosecution for some criminal matter by reason of insanity. According to [redacted] HIGH was again received at this hospital on May 7, 1951, and was granted leave on May 18, 1951, and finally discharged on the same day with diagnosis, "Without psychosis, psychopathic personality."

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

Director, FBI

December 29, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/16/07 BY 60367NLSZP/LSC  
918421

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

RECORDED-38 FBI File 105-34237-128

EX-107

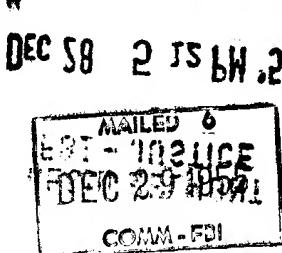
On December 11, 1955, Arrington Wofford High, Jackson, Mississippi, was interviewed in connection with statements made by him concerning the shooting of Gus Courts. During the course of this interview High stated that he understood that J. W. Milan, defendant in the Emmett Till case at Sumner, Mississippi, had been hired by the citizens councils to be the triggerman in the killing of Clinton Melton, Negro, at Glendora, Mississippi. He said he also understood that Melton had been warned that he was going to be killed.

High was questioned as to the source of his information but would only say that "I understand that is true."

The Department has been advised previously that High was arrested in 1938 for forging a Government check. He received a five-year sentence. He was later arrested for violation of Federal parole in connection with the above conviction and served seventeen months. High was described by a United States probation officer as "the type of person who will engage in one swindle scheme after another so long as he is alive and outside a penal institution, and it is indeed regrettable that so damaging a personality has to be allowed to go at large." This probation officer indicated that the diagnosis for High at the Medical Center at Springfield, Missouri, was "psychopathic personality of the swindle type."

On May 7, 1951, High was arrested by the Jackson, Mississippi, Police Department and was removed to the Mississippi State Insane Hospital for observation. He was discharged with the diagnosis "without psychosis, psychopathic personality."

CFW:gft  
(6)



DEC 58 3 16 PM '58

FBI - MEMPHIS  
REG'D PERSONAL

JAN 4 1956

EX-107  
WCK

WCK

CFW/K

**Letter to Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins**

It is to be noted that this Bureau has conducted no investigation regarding the killing of Clinton Melton. Information has been received that an Elmer Kimball has been arrested by local authorities in Mississippi and charged with the murder of Melton.

The above is being furnished you for your information.

2cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/14/01 BY SP/EP (m)

91842

105-34237-129

**CHANGED TO**

105-43031-2

DEC 29 1955

sjs

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 12/19/55

FROM : SAC, WFO (44-NEW)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~  
~~HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~  
~~DATE 11/16/01 BY 60567MLS~~

918421 EP/LSA

SUBJECT: W.J. SIMMONS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
JACKSON COUNCIL, ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES

For the information of Baltimore, is attached a copy of a memo dated 12/13/55, addressed by the Bureau to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY, III, with one copy of the attachment of 12/7/55, from Mr. OLNEY to the Bureau.

Please check G-2 records promptly as requested.

(2)-Bureau  
 2-Baltimore (Encls. 2)  
 1-WFO  
 HBF:air  
 (5)

RECORDED-96

INDEXED-96

EX-125

25 DEC 20 1955

Bureau of  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 INT. SEC. DIVISION

68DEC23195520

FD-36

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/16/03 BY 247MS

91842) (EPH)

FBI, BALTIMORE (105-1673)

12/23/55

JEB:baw

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

W. J. SIMMONS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
JACKSON COUNCIL, ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES

The WFO letter to Bureau dated 12/19/55, enclosing for Baltimore a copy of Bureau memorandum dated 12/13/55 to Assistant Attorney General, WARREN OLNEY, III, and one copy of attachment of 12/7/55 from Mr. OLNEY to the Bureau.

Files of G-2, Central Records Facility, Army Intelligence Center, Fort Holabird, Baltimore, Maryland, were checked through [redacted] Commanding Officer, on December 23, 1955 for SA [redacted] without locating any record of the subject, W. J. SIMMONS.

CRF indices reflect that information pertaining to one W. SIMMONS is presently on file at the Security Division, G-2, Department of the Army, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C., under the following:

Subject: Undesirable Individuals  
Date of Correspondence: June 15, 1942  
June 26, 1942  
Date of Basic: May 29, 1942  
File Number: 201.23

WFO check above reference at the Security Division, G-2, Department of the Army. RUC.

cc - 2 - Washington Field (44-New) *105-34237-13*

END

AIR-TEL

VIA AIR MAIL

AMSD

REGULAR MAIL

REGISTERED

Approved: *BKB*  
Special Agent in Charge

INDEXED 53 7 DEC 28 1955

Mr. Belmont

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FD-72  
(3-9-54)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT MEMPHIS

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 12-28-55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/28; 12/12/55	REPORT MADE BY LJF:eah LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR. (A)
TITLE <u>ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI</u>	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X		

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi continues to be active in Jackson and surrounding area and additional chapters organized. Newspaper account of activities set out. Reportedly Durant Presbyterian Minister charged Citizens' Councils (CC) prompted efforts to oust him as Pastor. Mississippi Governor HUGH WHITE reportedly expressed fear that recent violence in State may result in Federal action against Mississippi and indicated many people eager to blame CC, but claimed did not believe they had anything to do with it. Statewide rally of CC held Jackson, 12-1-55, at which U. S. Senator JAMES O. EASTLAND featured speaker, and U. S. Congressman JOHN BELL WILLIAMS, Master of Ceremonies. Officers of Jackson Chapter set out.

- P - (S)

~~DECLASSIFIED BY 2025-1-10-00  
ON 12-16-90  
293969~~

RAB-56, C-2, OST, ONE

RECORDED  
DATE FORM. 1/5/56  
HOW FORM. RS  
BY cu/HY

6-17 to New Orleans 1/5/56  
Declassify & advise other  
offices & Intelligence Agencies  
cu/HY

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 640	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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	DEC 30 1955	INDEXED 45 EX-121

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60 JAN 20 1956

NO 105-492

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1 - ST. LOUIS (INFO) (RM)  
2 - MEMPHIS (105-121) (RM)  
2 - NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

\* \* \* \* \*

DETAILS: AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

I. ORIGIN, SCOPE, AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE  
ORGANIZATION

The following newspaper articles have appeared in Jackson, Mississippi, Newspapers concerning the activities of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi:

On October 5, 1955, an article appeared in the Jackson Daily News, Jackson, Mississippi, stating that a key figure of the Citizens' Council (CC) movement in Mississippi had denied

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in an address at Charleston, S. C., that the purpose of the CC was to organize an economic boycott against negroes. The article identified the official as W. J. SIMMONS and he was quoted in the article as stating that the councils exist "for the purpose of arousing, conserving and expressing public opinion...the heart and soul (of the movement) is nothing more or less than the town meeting."

This article quoted SIMMONS as suggesting the following steps to approach the segregation problem:

1. Creation and maintenance of a powerful organization of "responsible white people" in the South to "protect their rightful interests."

2. Counterattack to the forces--which he identified as the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People--"laying siege to our separate communities."

3. Conformity to the plan of States' Rights which SIMMONS declared was laid down by THOMAS JEFFERSON and JAMES MADISON.

An article appeared in the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, on October 23, 1955, stating that State Auditor-Elect E. B. GOLDING, former Benton School Superintendent, was stumping in many sections of the State on behalf of the Mississippi Citizens' Council. This article stated that he was taking a lead in helping to organize local councils and interest white people in all sections in joining. GOLDING was quoted as stating that he is the only high state official who is a member of the CC.

This article reported that the Mississippi Citizens' Council hotly defends against any claims that they are a modern-day version of the Ku Klux Klan. The article reported that no hoodlums are in the business of the Councils and in their ranks may be found the names of the foremost citizens. He stated that the Council hides behind nothing and newspaper publicity is invited. He stated that officials are open for interviews by

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press and radio at any time. This article stated that there were 263 State Councils in operation and that an official newspaper known as "The Citizens Council" had just begun operation.

On October 24, 1955, an article appeared in the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, stating that a confederation of most of the South's pro-segregation, states-rights groups had been announced. It was stated that the organizations include various white citizens' councils, the state rights councils of Georgia, the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberty of Virginia, the Florida States Rights, and the Citizens States Rights League of South Carolina. It was indicated that this confederation would be known as the "Federation for Constitutional Government."

On October 27, 1955, an article appeared in the Daily News, Jackson, Mississippi, referring to an address by Circuit Judge TOM P. BRADY, who reportedly told the Humphreys County Citizen Council on October 26, 1955, that the "genius of America" has always been below the Mason and Dixon line. He was quoted as saying, "It is wise for the Socialists and Communists to encourage Northern hatred for the South because we are the most conservative element in America, the cradle of Democracy."

On November 2, 1955, an article appeared in the State Times, Jackson, Mississippi, which quoted W. J. SIMMONS, Mississippi State Administrator of the CC, as stating that if the Farm Bureau, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs were taken out of the CC that there wouldn't be much left. He was quoted as stating that the councils preach the doctrine that attempts to break down segregation are part of a Communist plot to destroy America by mixing the blood of the "superior" white man.

On November 20, 1955, an article appeared in the Clarion-Ledger stating that the CC was in need of funds and reporting that the CC was launched in Mississippi for a worthy purpose--the preservation of the integrity and supremacy of the

NO 105-492

white race. The article reported that the work of the organization will be kept within that consecrated purpose. This article further stated that this means specifically that the CC is pledged to do everything within the power of good citizens to prevent the United States Supreme Court from enforcing its order to abolish segregation in the public schools. This article stated that more than 50,000 loyal, clear-visioned and fearless Mississippians have been thus far enrolled as members. This article stated that expenses are kept to a minimum and at the State Headquarters Office in Winona there were only three salaried employees, the State Secretary and two Office Clerks. This article identified ROBERT PATTERSON as the State Secretary, who was retained at a very modest salary and stated that at least two additional field men were needed at the Headquarters Office for the formation of more local councils. The article stated that enemies cannot be fought without weapons and the NAACP is being well financed by Northern radicals for its fight to enforce social equality on Southern people.

An article appeared in the State Times, Jackson, Mississippi, on November 29, 1955, quoting the Reverend MARSH CALLAWAY as charging that the CC prompted efforts to oust him as Pastor of a Durant Presbyterian Church. This article stated that the Minister's accusation was made at the start of a hearing by the Central Presbytery on the Durant church's efforts to dismiss CALLAWAY for "politicking." This article stated that in a prepared statement CALLAWAY stated the acts of the Board of Elders of his church "have been prompted by the CC working to deprive me of my place as a minister in the church because I spoke and voted against actions of a Citizens Council controlled, called or directed mass meeting of the citizens of Holmes County on September, 27th. (1955)" This article stated that in a counter statement the Board of Elders declared the Holmes incident was the latest act in a series of frictions since CALLAWAY began his pastorate there four months previously. The board denied the CC interfered with its actions against CALLAWAY and, according to the article, the board also made the charge that CALLAWAY started friction in the congregation by declaring the Baptist members of the

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community "had no religion."

On November 12, 1955, an article appeared in the State Times, Jackson, Mississippi, referring to an incident concerning the Falstaff Brewery Company. This article stated that a Falstaff representative had approached Mayor MARION B. SIMPSON of Canton, Mississippi, after news of the brewery's contribution to the NAACP stirred the wrath of Canton merchants. This article quoted SIMPSON as stating that after word got around about the donation to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People some Falstaff people came to him to learn how the report originated. SIMPSON, who, according to the article, was described as a member of the pro-segregation CC, stated that he showed them a copy of "The White Sentinel," a St. Louis publication with a picture of the Falstaff Vice-President handing over the check.

This article also quoted a Mr. W. T. HACKETT, JR., Manager of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, as stating that the Canton grocers were getting Falstaff out of their stores.

An article appeared in the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, on November 30, 1955, stating that a statewide rally of the CC would be held December 1, 1955, in the Municipal Auditorium at Jackson, Mississippi, with U. S. Senator JAMES O. EASTLAND as the principal speaker and U. S. Congressman JOHN BELL WILLIAMS as the Master of Ceremonies.

An article appearing on December 2, 1955, in the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, stated that Senator EASTLAND had recommended that the Southern states form a regional commission to "answer attacks upon us." Senator EASTLAND, according to the article, declared that the political leaders of the nation are insincere in their efforts to obtain desegregation. He was quoted as stating, "Even President EISENHOWER, despite his advocacy of integration of the races, is sending his own grandchildren to an all-white Episcopal school in Alexandria, Virginia." EASTLAND stated that the

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politicians from the President down want integration for the other fellow, but not for themselves. The Council, upon the recommendation of JOHN SATTERFIELD, President of the Mississippi State Bar, adopted a six-point resolution calling for:

1. Prohibition of common-law marriages by statute.
2. Repeal of the compulsory school attendance law.
3. Provide penalties for barratry, maintenance and champerty, unauthorized practice of law and agitation of court suits to end segregation.
4. Provide penalties for persons interfering with state law under color of federal authority.
5. Provide penalties for abusive and obscene telephone calls and define and provide penalties for criminal libel.
6. Creation of a state authority for the maintenance of segregation.

An article appeared in the State Times, Jackson, Mississippi, on November 28, 1955, which quoted Governor HUGH WHITE as expressing fear that recent violence against negroes in the State, if it continues, may result in Federal action against Mississippi. This article quoted Governor WHITE as stating that many people were eager to lay all of this on the CC, but he did not think they had a thing in the world to do with it.

The following circulars and bulletins have been made available by Confidential Informants T-1 and T-2, who have furnished reliable information in the past:

One such bulletin, made available by T-2, which is undated, stated that, "Many of us who have made a study of the diabolical integration scheme designed to destroy, not only the South, but our Nation, are appalled at the complacency and apathy of many of our fellow citizens." This bulletin stated that, "We must realize that these people simply do not know the facts behind this plot, and that ignorance is bliss."

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This bulletin enclosed a pamphlet which is described as "one of the finest weapons we have yet seen against the National Association for the Agitation of Colored People....." This pamphlet was entitled, "The Ugly Truth about the NAACP," and "An Address by Attorney General EUGENE COOK of Georgia before the 55th Annual Convention of the Peace Officers Association of Georgia."

The Jackson Citizens' Council submitted a pamphlet, which was made available by T-1, with the heading, "The Eight Ifs...and Your Answer!", as follows:

"IF...

- "(1) If you believe there can be NO compromise on the matter of segregation
- "(2) If you believe that integration will bring the evils of miscegenation (interbreeding between different races)
- "(3) If you believe that social intermingling and miscegenation will be seriously detrimental to both races and to our civilization
- "(4) If you realize that either Communistic influences or economic pressure groups stand behind every effort to invade States' Rights and force integration and miscegenation on the people of the South
- "(5) If you believe in the rights of the Sovereign States to handle their own internal affairs
- "(6) If you realize that indifference, apathy, and the inclination of some to accept desegregation as 'inevitable'... are our greatest enemies
- "(7) If you are positively dedicated, in your own mind, to the preservation of segregation without equivocation or qualification

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"(8) If you are ready and willing to DO SOMETHING positive  
about this very serious and present problem

"THEN...

" You should immediately join the Jackson Citizens' Council

"BECAUSE...

" This organization, composed of your fellow citizens,  
and affiliated with the Association of Citizens' Council of  
Mississippi--

"IS DEDICATED

" --to good government and the promotion of peaceful re-  
lations among the citizens of our community

" --to the task of taking every legal and legitimate means  
to maintain segregation in Jackson

" --to keeping all members informed as to matters dealing  
with this subject

" --to inform the public as to the disastrous force  
that integration turns loose in a community or state

"Join with those who think as you think...

"Join with those who stand publicly...fearlessly...and fully  
"determined...that segregation in Jackson SHALL BE maintained."

A confidential communication dated September 21, 1955,  
made available by T-1, issued by the Jackson Citizens' Council  
indicated that [redacted]

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New Orleans Confidential Informants T-1 and T-2 have  
also made available certain circulars issued by the Citizens' Councils

NO 105-492

regarding racial incidents in the State of Mississippi. Prominent attention has been given to the case of EMMETT LOUIS TILL. One of these news circulars made available by T-2, which is undated, is as follows:

"EMMETT LOUIS TILL, SR., was hanged in Italy in 1945 for the rape of two Italian girls and the murder of another. Who was the Theater Commander who reviewed this verdict and sentence? None other than DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

"MAMIE BRADLEY has admitted that this was her husband and the father of EMMETT TILL who was allegedly murdered in Mississippi for 'wolf-whistling.'

"Army records in Washington, D. C., show as follows: 'Pvt. LOUIS TILL of 177th Port Company was executed in Italy July 2, 1945, for murder and rape at age 24.'

"October 10 issue of LIFE Magazine states: 'Those in Sumner and elsewhere, who condone it (the murder) are in far worse danger than EMMET TILL ever was. He had only his life to lose, and many others have done that, including his soldier-father who was killed in France fighting for the American proposition that all men are equal.'

"This story was released by the Associated Press and the INS. To our knowledge, not one single Northern newspaper carried this interesting development in the world famous TILL case. Was the story killed in the branch offices of the Associated Press or where? Who killed it? Why? Why should this vital fact, which can be verified by the War Department, be denied to the people, when the Northern press itself has made such a story out of the other side of the TILL case."

Other circulars made available by T-2 indicate that the President of Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, has answered an editorial appearing in LIFE Magazine on October 10, 1955, which was carried in LIFE under the title, "In Memoriam, EMMETT TILL." The editorial in LIFE and the answer of Doctor D. M. NELSON, President of Mississippi College, was included in its circular to members of the Citizens' Council.

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In the article, Dr. NELSON took issue with LIFE Magazine over the fact that LIFE had indicated that the father of EMMETT LOUIS TILL had been killed in France fighting for the American proposition that all men are equal. Dr. NELSON called attention to the fact that TILL's father was hanged for murder and rape while serving in the armed forces in Italy.

Circulars have also been issued to Citizens' Council members taking issue over the fact that the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, Louisiana, has begun a race mixing laboratory. This circular suggested that the President of the Sugar Bowl Committee, Mr. FRED DIGBY, should be written and interested Southerners should tell him how they feel about "his turning sugar into molasses." This circular was made available by T-2.

The Citizens' Council has also distributed to its members copies of "The White Sentinel," a publication published in St. Louis, Missouri, by JOHN W. HAMILTON, Editor, and HELEN M. WOLF, Associate Editor. Copies were made available by T-1 and T-2.

## II. OFFICERS--STATE AND LOCAL

T-1 advised that The Citizens' Council, which is described as an official organ of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, was first issued in October, 1955. The State Executive Committee and Officers were as follows:

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

FRED A. ANDERSON, JR.....	Gloster
TOM P. BRADY.....	Brookhaven
M. L. BRANCH.....	Winona
J. B. CUNNINGHAM.....	Brooksville
J. O. HOLLIS.....	Carthage
E. W. HQOKER.....	Lexington

NO 105-492

FRED JONES.....Inverness  
M. P. MOORE.....Senatobia  
BEN PERRY.....Grenada  
MARION SIMPSON.....Canton  
WILL E. WARD.....Starkville  
PETE F. WILLIAMS, SR.....Clarksdale  
ELLIS W. WRIGHT.....Jackson  
R. B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary.....Winona  
W. J. SIMMONS, Administrator.....Jackson  
ELLETT LAWRENCE, Finance Chairman.....Greenwood  
FORREST HEATH, Treasurer.....Winona

The Editor of this newspaper was identified  
as W. J. SIMMONS.

The officers of the Jackson Citizens' Council  
are as follows:

ELLIS W. WRIGHT, President  
C. H. KING, Vice-President  
W. J. SIMMONS, Secretary  
MARVIN COLLUM, Treasurer

Directors

JULIAN P. ALEXANDER  
SAMUEL M. BAILEY  
Dr. JOHN CLARK BOSWELL  
ROBERT BURNS  
JOHN M. BYRD  
ROBERT C. CANNADA  
R. B. EVERETT  
GEORGE W. GODWIN  
ELMORE D. GREAVES  
Dr. J. HARVEY JOHNSTON

J. W. LATHAM  
GARNER M. LESTER  
ED S. LEWIS, JR.  
W. P. McMULLAN  
N. W. OVERSTREET, JR.  
DICK D. QUIN  
SIDNEY ROBINSON, JR.  
EARL T. THOMAS  
ERSKINS W. WELLS  
W. W. WRIGHT

NO 105-492

An article appearing in the State Times, Jackson, Mississippi, November 13, 1955, indicated that a new Citizens' Council had been organized in Florence, Mississippi, and the Secretary was HENRY SHEPHERD. This group was organized by W. J. SIMMONS, Jackson, and indicated that DAN T. KEEL of Florence School was President of the Chapter.

New Orleans Confidential Informant T-3, another Government agency conducting personnel investigations, advised that WILLIAM JAMES SIMMONS, ex-AS, 644 52 61, U. S. Navy, was discharged from the U. S. Navy effective August 15, 1942, because of a history of psychopathic state of the schizoid type. It was indicated that his latest home address was 734 Fairview, Jackson, Mississippi, and his date of birth was July 7, 1916, at Utica, Mississippi.

- P -

NO 105-492

ADMINISTRATIVE

Information copies of this report are being furnished to the Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Kansas City, Knoxville, Little Rock, Mobile, Miami, Norfolk, Richmond, and St. Louis Divisions in view of potential investigation that may develop in those districts concerning this association or related agencies.

INFORMANTS

IDENTITY OF SOURCE	DATE OF ACTI- VITY AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF INFO	DATE REG'D	AGENT TO WHOM FURNISHED	FILE # WHERE LOCATED
T-1: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Bulletins & Circulars issued by Citizens' Council	12-12-55	SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR.	Instant Report
T-2:	Bulletins & Circulars issued by CC	11-28-55; 12-12-55	SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR.	"
T-3: Department of Navy, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D. C.		10-24-55		

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b7C  
b7D

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Will follow and report activities of the Association

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

NO 105-492

of the Citizens' Council of Mississippi and in the Southern  
Judicial District of Mississippi.

REFERENCE

Report of SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., dated 10-7-55,  
at New Orleans.

Report of SA GEORGE A. EVERETT, dated 11-16-55, at  
Memphis.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to:

FBI NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237) (AIRMAIL)  
SAC, MEMPHIS (105-121) (AIRMAIL)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/01 BY 60247NL/SEP/LS  
91842

13  
12-23-55

ReBumemo to Assistant Attorney General WILLIAM F. TOMPKINS dated 12-16-55 which contained a notation for the Memphis and New Orleans Divisions giving instructions regarding investigation in this case.

New Orleans Division proposes to thoroughly interview and take signed statements where possible and desirable from the persons named in the "New York Post" article, a Photostat of which was forwarded by the Bureau, to determine whether there are specific detailed complaints:

(1) That an organization has adopted a policy advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny any individual of a Federally constituted right;

(2) That economic pressure is being exerted by individuals or as a result of group action or approval for the purpose of injuring or intimidating any citizen in their rights to vote by threats of personal injury or the application of such economic pressure which might possibly indicate a violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code.

3 - BUREAU (105-34237) (AIRMAIL)  
2 - MEMPHIS (105-121) (AIRMAIL)  
2 - NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

R.M. 34237

R.M. — —

2 DEC 30 1955

ZJV:sam  
(7)

Approved:

*[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

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b7C

NO 105-492

It is not believed the Bureau desires any "fishing expedition" to be engaged in during the course of this investigation where no specific allegation of a Federal violation is alleged which undoubtedly would result in criticism of the Bureau. Consequently, a full investigation is being restricted to those specific instances where a complainant can furnish sufficient information of a detailed nature as to a Federal violation as outlined under numbers 1 and 2 above, as distinguished from a complaint of a general wholesale nature.

The Bureau is advised that New Orleans Division files reflect no complaint from anyone in Yazoo City or elsewhere in Mississippi to this division with regard to the allegations set forth in the "New York Post" article.

UACB above procedure will be adhered to by New Orleans in this investigation.

CHILES.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b6  
b7C.9

cc: [redacted]

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION December 29, 1955

AIRTEL

RECORDED-53 Transmit the following message to SAC, New Orleans (105-492)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI, INTERNAL  
SECURITY - I.

Reairtel December 28, 1955, in which you advised that a full investigation of the captioned organization as outlined in Bulet of December 18, 1955, is being restricted to specific instances where a complainant can furnish specific information of detailed nature as to a Federal violation.

As you were advised, the Department has instructed that a full investigation of the captioned organization be conducted. This will require that interviews be conducted with individuals who are in a position to furnish pertinent information concerning this organization and its aims and purposes. The Bureau does not desire "fishing expeditions"; however, every step must be taken to insure that all information concerning this organization is obtained and reported.

It will be insufficient for your office to merely report information received from complainants. Many individuals possess pertinent information which will not be reported to your office and, therefore, it will be necessary for you to contact such individuals for this information.

HOOVER

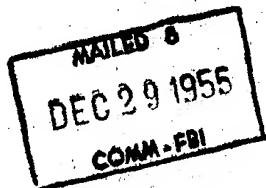
Enc-Memphis (105-121)

Bufile 105-34287

NOTE ON YELLOW:

In connection with the possible designation of captioned organization under Executive Order 10450 Department requested full investigation. New Orleans in reairtel suggests investigation be limited to specific instances where complainant can furnish detailed information as to a Federal violation.

CFW:bew  
(6)  
Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/01 BY 6277NLS/EP/LH

91842

66 JAN 5 1956

SENT VIA

M Per



Letter to Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

He also stated in the letter that he is afraid to contact the FBI and would expect to get no results from the Bureau in this situation.

You are instructed to have Patterson interviewed immediately for all information in his possession concerning the Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi and any instances of economic pressure applied by its members.

You should point out to Patterson that any information furnished to the FBI is treated in confidence and that the Bureau is anxious to receive information concerning the use of economic pressure in denying other individuals their rights under the Constitution of the United States. You should also explain to Patterson the Bureau's jurisdiction in connection with civil rights and related statutes.

The results of this interview should be furnished the Bureau promptly in a blank memorandum suitable for dissemination to the Department.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/01 BY 603VNSBPLW

X 91842)

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

December 14, 1955

As a matter of record, in connection with the article appearing in the December 17, 1955 issue of The Saturday Evening Post, entitled "Racial Crisis in the Deep South," by Hodding Carter, it is noted that on the first page of the article (Page 26), the statement is made that Herman Moore, of Indianola, Mississippi, was one of the founders of the Citizens Councils.

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Boardman ✓  
Mr. Belmont ✓  
Mr. Mason ✓  
Mr. Mohr ✓  
Mr. Parsons ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd ✓  
Tele. Room ✓  
Mr. Holloman ✓  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/17/01 BY 4234/CALS/SP/LW

As I recall, he lost a son while in the military service; of this, however, I am not positive. He has been in the banking business as long as I have known him and is now a very prominent banker in Indianola, Mississippi.

I have always known him to be one of the "pillars of the community" and I have never known him to have any bad habits nor engaged in any activities that were not of the highest ideals.

INDEXED-30 RECORDED - 30 16 JAN 3 1956

In view of the fact [redacted] Herman Moore  
I feel if the occasion should ever present itself that information concerning the Councils was desired,

[redacted] Herman Moore

FCH:eff (2)  
1--FCH

EX-125

66 JAN 10 1956

JULY 34 1957  
105-34232-7135

PERS. FILES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b6  
Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ b7C  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Roson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Wintrobud \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FBI, NEW ORLEANS

12/28/55

AIRTEL

Transmit the following AIRTEL message to:

AIRMAIL

DIRECTOR, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/07 BY 6-247NLS/EP/LM

91542

By memo dated 12/9/55, the Department furnished the Bureau photostats captioned "The Victims" which appeared in the "New York Post". The article contains allegations of economic pressure being exerted against Negroes in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

The Department requested that interviews be conducted with persons named in article as having been subjected to economic pressure and requested it be determined, if possible, whether alleged economic pressure being exerted was by individuals or as result of group action or approval.

NATHAN STEWART, according to the article, was a successful Negro grocer with income not less than \$300.00 per week. However, after his name appeared on petition for integration for public schools filed with Yazoo County School Board, every wholesaler reportedly refused to sell to him even for cash. The Delta National Bank told him to withdraw his money. STEWART reportedly closed his store and moved to 78 West 141st Street, Dixmoore, Harvey, Illinois.

LJF: efs  
(14)

3 - Bureau  
2 - Chicago  
2 - Detroit  
2 - Indianapolis  
2 - Springfield  
2 - Memphis (105-121)  
1 - New Orleans (105-492)

cc retained  
LJF 170d  
LJF 36

RECORDED-66

25 DEC 30 1955

Mrs. Belmont

BONANZ 1956

EX-101

AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, FBI

NO 105-492

PAGE TWO

CHARLES RYAN, another Negro grocer whose name also appeared on petition filed with the school board subsequently closed his store and moved to 1509 West 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana.

[redacted] another Negro, who appeared as a signer of the school petition was fired by his employer [redacted] Yazoo City, Mississippi. He reportedly moved to Raleigh, Illinois, but his exact address is unknown.

[redacted] Chicago Heights, Illinois, formerly worked for [redacted] Yazoo City, and was fired after [redacted] LILLIAN YOUNG signed petition for integration.

JAMES WRIGHT, 21375 Mitchelldale, Ferndale 20. Michigan, employed as plumber was told by [redacted] to remove name from integration petition and she would give him work on daughter's house. WRIGHT reportedly removed name but still did not get work or any other work.

CHICAGO interview [redacted]

DETROIT interview WRIGHT.

INDIANAPOLIS interview RYAN.

SPRINGFIELD attempt to locate [redacted] at Raleigh and interview per Department instructions.

BUDDED 1/9/55 WITHOUT FAIL.

AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, FBI  
PAGE THREE

NO 105-492

If persons interviewed make specific allegations of Federal violation and additional investigation necessary to cooperate, furnish information New Orleans immediately so BUDED can be met.

MEMPHIS OFFICE OF ORIGIN, furnish two copies of report New Orleans.

CHILES

cc: MR. BELMONT  
~~AND [REDACTED]~~  
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

TICKET

b6  
b7C

DECEMBER 31, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/06 BY [redacted] SAC, NEW ORLEANS

de 1-1

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI, INTERNAL SECURITY - X.

L. G. PATTERSON, MANAGER OF QUOTE HOL HYPHEN DEM ELECTRIC FENCER COMPANY, UNQUOTE OLD EIGHTY EAST HIGHWAY, WEST JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, IN LETTER TO DEPARTMENT DATED TWELVE THREE FIFTY FIVE STATED IN SUBSTANCE AS FOLLOWS. CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO PREVENT OR STOP THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS IN THIS STATE FROM BRINGING ECONOMIC PRESSURE TO RUIN A MAN'S BUSINESS BECAUSE HE DARES VOICE OPINIONS CONTRARY TO QUOTE SO CALLED SOUTHERN WAY OF LIFE? UNQUOTE TO VOICE OPINIONS CONTRARY TO THEIR BELIEF CAN PUT A MAN IN FEAR OF HIS LIFE. NEGROES HAVE BEEN SCARED AND INTIMIDATED UNTIL SENSIBLE COMMITMENT FROM THEM CANNOT BE EXPECTED. CITIZENS COUNCILS HAVING PREACHERS DISCHARGED WHO DO NOT MEET WITH THEIR APPROVAL. ALL SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, AND CONGRESSMEN FROM MISSISSIPPI ARE MEMBERS OF CITIZENS COUNCILS. PATTERSON ADDS THAT DEPARTMENT MAY THINK MATTERS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH LOCAL FBI BUT IF LOCAL FBI FROM MISSISSIPPI ~~IS~~ WOULD BE AFRAID TO CONTACT NOR COULD HE EXPECT ANY RESULTS. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT PATTERSON ON OR BEFORE JANUARY THREE TO OBTAIN FROM HIM ANY INFORMATION IN HIS POSSESSION CONCERNING ECONOMIC PRESSURE BEING APPLIED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO DENY THEM THEIR RIGHTS UNDER US CONSTITUTION. ADVISE PATTERSON THAT FBI MAINTAINS IN CONFIDENCE ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED. SUTEL RESULTS TO REACH BUREAU NO LATER THAN ONE THREE EIGHTY SIX WITHOUT FAIL.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_

Nichols \_\_\_\_\_

Belmont \_\_\_\_\_

Harbo \_\_\_\_\_

Mohr \_\_\_\_\_

Parsons \_\_\_\_\_

Rosen \_\_\_\_\_

Tamm **WFE/eh**

Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_

Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_

Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_

Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

Sandy \_\_\_\_\_

COPIES DESTROYED

479 MAY 10 1972

HOOVER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED-66 LOCATIONS SECTION

18 JAN 4 1956

DEC 31 1955

TELETYPE

50 JAN 6 1956

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-17-03 BY 10367 NLS  
91842) EPIS

DEC 15 1955

WESTERN UNION

BI WUE133 DL PD

LOS ANGELES CALIF DEC 15 1955 457AMP

J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE

ON DECEMBER 21ST LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF NAACP IS SENDING  
A TRUCK LOAD OF FOOD AND CLOTHING TO NEGRO CITIZENS OF  
MISSISSIPPI WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM ECONOMIC REPRISALS OF  
*Mississippi*  
THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS THERE IS FEAR THAT IN SPITE  
RECORDED-75 703-34237  
OF FACT TRUCKS WILL BE IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE INDEXED-75 DEC 30 1955  
EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PREVENT DELIVERY YOUR ASSISTANCE  
TO ASSURE DELIVERY IS REQUESTED

PRESIDENT LOS ANGELES BRANCH NAACP

846A..

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Belmont

CC: MR. ROSEN

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

CC: MR. BELMONT

DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TELEGRAM  
SENT TO

12/16/55  
12/16/55  
12/16/55

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-12-2014 BY 6-9-47 M/S  
914421 EP/BS

DEC 15 1955

WESTERN UNION

PI WUE133 DL PD

LOS ANGELES CALIF DEC 15 1955 457AMP

J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE

ON DECEMBER 21ST LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF NAACP IS SENDING  
A TRUCK LOAD OF FOOD AND CLOTHING TO NEGRO CITIZENS OF  
MISSISSIPPI WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM ECONOMIC REPRISALS OF  
THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS THERE IS FEAR THAT IN SPITE  
OF FACT TRUCKS WILL BE IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE SOME  
EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PREVENT DELIVERY YOUR ASSISTANCE  
TO ASSURE DELIVERY IS REQUESTED

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

[REDACTED] PRESIDENT LOS ANGELES BRANCH NAACP /15 SO BW, 2, (D) P.M.

846A..

4 copies typed  
12-16-55  
JF

ORIGINAL--DIRECTOR

NO Bureau Criminal Case - No action  
Investigation Div., Dom. Intel. Investigate  
ing White Citizens Councils.

b6  
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 16 1955

WESTERN UNION

BI 5 ST GOVT. PAID 12-16-55 2-09 PM

[REDACTED]

PRESIDENT

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MATTER OF PROTECTION MENTIONED IN YOUR TELEGRAM DECEMBER FIFTEENTH

WOLXXX WOULD BE WITHIN JURISDICTION LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NOT FBI.

SINCERELY YOURS,

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/02 BY 60247NLS/EP/HM

91842

12/27/55  
MWB  
MWB  
MWB

105-34237-138,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

069a  
*B*

December 15, 1955

URGENT

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

RECORDED-75

PRESIDENT  
LOS ANGELES BRANCH  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MATTER OF PROTECTION MENTIONED IN YOUR TELEGRAM DECEMBER  
FIFTEENTH WOULD BE WITHIN JURISDICTION LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
AND NOT ~~EXCLUSIVELY~~ FBI.

SINCERELY YOURS,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/03 BY 60347WAS/SP

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

914421 LNY

cc - Los Angeles (AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY) with copy of incoming.  
cc - Memphis (AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY) with copy of incoming.  
cc - New Orleans (AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY) with copy of incoming.  
cc - [redacted] with copy of incoming. (Room 1704)

NOTE: - The Investigative Division advised no action necessary for that Division in this matter. Internal Security Section consulted and advised that the contents of [redacted] wire, and our reply to him will be furnished the Attorney General as soon as wire to [redacted] clears Bureau. All references in Bufiles re [redacted] not reviewed. Bufiles reflect he is on legal staff of Los Angeles NAACP. Bufile 100-3-74-5838 indicates [redacted] was one of Attorneys who filed Amici Curiae Brief in February, 1950, in connection with appeal of Attorneys who represented the communist leaders in the trial of the case, "U. S. vs. William Z. Foster, et al." In January, 1951, [redacted] was the main speaker at a meeting in Los Angeles sponsored by Hugh Gordon Bookshop. Hugh Gordon Bookshop managed by woman who is a trusted member of the CP, and CP supports bookstore financially. (121-36900-6)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(121-36900-6)  
The Un-American Activities report for October, 1952, in hearings at Los Angeles reflects [redacted] was one of counsel for one Max Benjamin Sosin. Sosin was previously identified in testimony before HCUA as CP member. After consulting with counsel, refused to answer in the was member of CP - CIO. (100-3-254771X) (100-3-254771X) (100-3-254771X)

TED: jfm:mpk

DEC 16 1955

WIRE

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

WESTERN UNION

WIRE

68 JAN 6 1956 INITIALED 10:09 A.M. Per [redacted]

SENT VIA DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Per [redacted]

Memorandum for the Attorney General

[Redacted]  
President  
Los Angeles Branch  
National Association for the Advancement of  
Colored People  
Los Angeles, California

"Matter of protection mentioned in your telegram  
December fifteenth would be within jurisdiction  
local authorities and not FBI.

"Sincerely yours,

"John Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation"

No further action is contemplated by the FBI  
in this instance.

cc - Mr. William P. Rogers  
Deputy Attorney General

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

SAC, NEW ORLEANS

January 5, 1956

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'  
RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ReBulet dated November 21, 1955.

Bureau files fail to reflect the receipt of your reply in this matter. In the event you have furnished the requested information, you are instructed to furnish the Bureau the date and caption of your communication.

CFW:ief

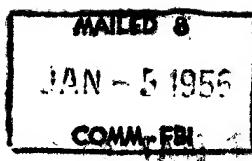
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/01 BY 40267 M/S/EP/LH  
91842

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

105-34237-

RECORDED - 79  
2 JAN 6 1956



REC'D - X  
1/21/56

EX-3  
WCT

cc - [redacted]

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b7C

SAC, Savannah

January 4, 1956

Director, FBI (105-34297)

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND  
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

The Savannah Office advised previously that citizens councils have been formed in the following South Carolina communities: Allendale, Charleston, James Island, Moultrie, North Charleston, St. Andrews, St. Johns, St. Pauls, Sheldon and Weddellaw. Also, citizens councils have been formed in Lyons and Springfield, Georgia.

Bureau files fail to reflect the receipt of reports concerning these councils. In the event organizations have been formed in the above-mentioned communities, reports should be submitted without further delay.

CFW:baw  
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/19/01 BY 66267MSK/LHM  
918421

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
JAN 4 1956  
MAILED 31

RECORDED 105-1-37-111  
2 JAN 6 1956

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT MEMPHIS

REPORT MADE AT <b>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/6/56</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/4/56</b>	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted] <b>RAW</b>
TITLE <b>ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - X</b>	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED****HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED****DATE 4/16/01 BY 6-247 NLS ZP1 L75**

JAMES H. WRIGHT interviewed 1/4/56 and furnished signed statement setting out pressure exerted against him as a result of his having signed a petition for integration of the school system in Yazoo City, Mississippi. IDA B. WRIGHT, wife of JAMES H. WRIGHT, provided a signed statement.

**- RUC - 0**

## DETAILS:

At Ferndale, Michigan:

JAMES H. WRIGHT was interviewed at his residence, 21375 Mitchelldale, Ferndale, Michigan, on January 4, 1956, by SA [Redacted] and SA [Redacted] at which time he provided the following signed statement:

**"Ferndale, Michigan  
January 4, 1956**

*Reptn 11/15/56*  
 "I James H. Wright make the following voluntary statement to [Redacted] and [Redacted] who have identified themselves to me as special agents of the FBI.

AGENCY **6-2057.01**  
 REQ. RECD.  
 DATE FORW. **1/10/56**  
 HOW FORW. **PS**  
 BY **cuff**

*0-17 Detroit 1/10/56  
to declassif., audit,  
advise Memphis &  
New Orleans*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>CWB</b> <b>CWB</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>105-24237-17</b>	RECORDED-107
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (REGISTERED) (AMSD) 2 - Memphis (105-121) (REGISTERED) 2 - New Orleans (105-492) (REGISTERED) 1 - Detroit (105-1535)		INDEXED-107	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS REPORT IS LOANED TO YOU  
BY THE FBI, AND NEITHER IT NOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY  
TO WHICH LOANED.

DE 105-1535

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b7C

"No threats or promises have been made against me and I understand that this statement may be used in a court of law.

JAMES H. WRIGHT

"I was born July 29, 1912 Yazoo County, Mississippi, where I lived until September 17, 1955 when I moved to 21375 Mitchelldale, Ferndale, Michigan. I am a plumber by trade.

"Sometime during July 1955 I signed a petition, circulated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of which I am a member, to eleminate segregation in Public Schools in Yazoo County, Mississippi in connection with the recent Supreme Court decision to eleminate segregation in Public Schools.

"On August 17, 1955 [redacted]  
[redacted] Yazoo City, Mississippi, for whom I was working as a plumber told me that if I did not remove my name from the petition she would not give me any more work. She further stated that no one else in Yazoo County would give me any more work.

"Later that same day [redacted] of Teaster Oil Company, [redacted] Mississippi, for whom I have done considerable work and [redacted] of Yazoo City Junior Chamber of Commerce talked to me at the office of Teaster Oil Company. [redacted] had previously that day asked me to stop by his office. [redacted] told me that the NAACP had to be moved out of Mississippi. [redacted] reminded me that a Rev. Lee of Belzoni, Mississippi a Colored Minister, was killed and no one ever found out how he was killed. He said the same dam thing was going to happen

DE 105-1535

"in Yazoo City. [redacted] then said that anyone who wanted to leave he would give a one way ticket. I was afraid to take him up on this inasmuch as there were approximately 75 White men in the office of Teaster Oil Company and I was the only Colored person there. He further stated that we can cut off your credit and your work. He asked me if [redacted] had not cut me off of her job. I told him she had. He then stated that this was only the beginning. He told me that the Yazoo City Branch of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi would take the necessary action. *M.E.C.*

"Following this on August 17, 1955 I went down to the office of [redacted] a white attorney. [redacted] was not suggested to me by anyone. [redacted] wrote a letter to the Trustees of Yazoo City Public Schools, Yazoo City, Mississippi for me requesting that my name be removed from the petition for putting into effect integration under the U.S. Supreme Court decision. In this letter it was stated that I was not interested in integration inasmuch as my child did not attend the public schools. It further stated that I was not aware that the petition was for integration of the public schools but thought it was only for better schools for the Colored children. I signed this letter and it was notarized by one of his employees who is a notary public. I knew all along that the petition was for integration of the public schools but signed the letter anyway inasmuch as [redacted] had stated that it would be better, worded that way if I wanted to stay in Yazoo City. [redacted] told me that he was a member of the Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi. I delivered this letter to [redacted] at the Delta National Bank of Yazoo City on the same day. While in the Bank I heard [redacted] of the Bank tell a [redacted] of Holly Bluff, Mississippi that there is a member of the NAACP who had signed the

DE 105-1535

"petition and pointed at me. [redacted] started toward me but [redacted] stopped him and indicated that I had withdrawn my name from the petition.

"Sometime during August 1955 I stopped by [redacted] Yazoo City, Mississippi to collect a bill. [redacted] stated that she was sorry but she could not give me any more work because she had to live in Yazoo City herself and the Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi had told her not to give me any more work.

"Sometime during August 1955 I went into the Mississippi Tobacco Company to buy a box of cigars. At first no one seemed to want to wait on me, and then [redacted] the manager got up and went into the back of the store and came out shaking his head. He said he was sorry but his cigars had not come in. I told him I would take any price cigars he had but he stated that he didn't have any cigars. I saw cigars on his shelves but I left.

"Sometime during the later part of August 1955 I went into Planter's Hardware Store, Yazoo City, Mississippi where I had always purchased all of my plumbing supplies. One clerk by the name of [redacted] was charging some fittings to my account when another clerk by the name of [redacted] told [redacted] that the Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi had cut off all of my credit there. [redacted] asked me to wait a minute while he checked. [redacted] then came out and told me that 10,000 people had drawn up an agreement that if he sold me anything they would not buy anything from him, and therefore he could not sell to me anymore.

DE 105-1535

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b7C

"On September 8, 1955 [redacted]  
a white plumber came to my house and told me  
that my life was not worth two per cent. I  
asked him what he meant. He said I had no  
police protection and if someone should run  
into me that I knew I would always be wrong.  
He continued that if someone should kill me  
I would just be dead. He stated 'We mean  
for the NAACP to get out of the state and  
if they don't there will be a bunch of them  
found around the river.' He stated that it  
would be best for all of us to leave town.  
When he said we I assumed he meant the  
Association of Citizens' Councils of  
Mississippi.

"On September 15, 1955 I went to the home of  
[redacted] Yazoo City,  
Mississippi who was one of the leaders of the  
Citizens Council. [redacted] told me that  
he could not talk for the rest of the people but  
only for himself. He said the best thing for  
me to do was to get out of town. I replied that  
in 1942 when I was called to the service of my  
country they had asked me if I would accept  
a deferment which was given me each six months  
to keep their plumbing in order. All of the  
other plumbers had left and I was deferred  
until 1945 as 2A. He told me that that had  
been mentioned at a council meeting but that  
they couldn't do anything about it because if  
they allowed the 53 petitioners to live in  
Yazoo City, Mississippi, there would soon be  
500 more with a petition.

"That same day on September 15, 1955 I left  
Yazoo City, Mississippi and came to Ferndale,  
Michigan. From August 17, 1955 until September 15,

DE 105-1535

"1955 when I left Yazoo City, Mississippi I had no work of any kind.

"I have read the above statement consisting of six full pages and this part of a page and it is true to the best of my knowledge. I am willing to testify to this statement. I have initialed each page in the lower right hand corner and each correction made and signed the statement.

"*/s/ James H. Wright*

"Witnessed:

"*/s/ [redacted] F.B.I., 1/4/56*

"*/s/ [redacted] FBI, 1/4/56"*

IDA B. WRIGHT, wife of JAMES H. WRIGHT,  
was interviewed on January 4, 1956, by SA [redacted]  
and SA [redacted] and provided the following signed  
statement:

"Ferndale, Michigan  
January 4, 1956

"I Ida B. Wright make the following voluntary  
statement to [redacted] and [redacted]  
[redacted] who have identified themselves to me  
as special agents of the FBI. No threats or  
promises have been used and I understand that  
this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I was born August 26, 1905 in Yazoo County,  
Mississippi and resided there until September 15,  
1955 when I moved to Ferndale, Michigan.

DE 105-1535

"Sometime during August of 1955 I went shopping in the Jitney Jungle Grocery Store, Yazoo City Mississippi where I purchased most of my groceries. While I was filling my shopping cart I heard one of the clerks tell one of the cashiers that I was the wife of one of the fellows who had signed the petition and not to check me out. I hurried to another cashier and checked out before the first cashier could tell her. I did not go back in this store.

"I have read the above statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

" /s/ Ida B. Wright

"Witnessed:

" /s/ [redacted] Special Agent FBI 1/4/56

" /s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, 1/4/56"

- RUC -

DE 105-1535

ADMINISTRATIVE

During the interview it was noted that JAMES H. WRIGHT had difficulty in reading and writing, apparently from lack of a formal education. He does, however, make a good appearance, appeared to be alert and intelligent, and it is believed he would make a satisfactory witness.

Two copies of this report are being furnished New Orleans inasmuch as they requested two copies in referenced Air-Tel.

REFERENCE

New Orleans Air-Tel to Director, dated December 28, 1955.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

SAC, Newark

January 4, 1956

Director, FBI (105-34237)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reurairtel 12-28-55 captioned "Unsub: Representative of the White Citizens Council of New Jersey; Arthur Alexander Chapin - Vikex" in which information was set forth indicating that a chapter of the captioned organization has been formed in Essex County, New Jersey.

You are instructed to initiate discreet inquiries to determine whether such an organization exists, its aims and purposes and officials thereof. Your inquiries should be conducted in accordance with instructions set out in SAC Letters 55-40 and 55-66.

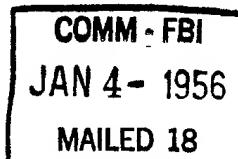
The results of your inquiries should be submitted to reach the Bureau no later than 30 days after receipt of this communication by your office.

cc - Memphis (For Information)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/01 BY SP/MSB/P/LG  
9184a

CFW:bas  
(5)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
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Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



105-34237-141  
21 JAN 10 1956

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AFB

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MEMPHIS

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
INDIANAPOLIS	1/6/56	1/3-4/56	-mar
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
<u>ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI</u>		INTERNAL SECURITY - X	
<i>meed 1-1</i> <b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> <p>CHARLIE RYAN, Gary, Ind., a lifelong resident of and a grocery store owner in Yazoo City, Miss. until 9/55, advised that he signed a petition circulated by the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People for integration of schools in June-July, 1955. Following publication of list of petition signers in Yazoo City Herald in 8/55 and after meeting of "People's Committee of Yazoo City" in 9/55, wholesalers and produce dealers refused to supply RYAN with products for his store. RYAN stated that as a result of pressure exerted by "People's Committee" he was unable to earn a living and had to sell his store. RYAN related that [redacted] of "People's Committee" had informed him that he and other elder citizens of "People's Committee" would have been able to settle incident if it were not for the young hot heads on committee who refused to accept RYAN and other's offers to withdraw names from NAACP petition.</p>			
<i>On 17 to Memphis Discussions re Local intelligence age 18-3 AT GARY, INDIANA AFW-1</i>		<i>- RUC - el (5)</i>	<i>Let AG office report 1/17/56 KRW</i>
<b>DETAILS:</b> <p>CHARLIE RYAN, 1509 West 21st Avenue, Gary, Indiana, informed on January 3, 1956, that he was born December 10, 1903 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and had been a lifelong resident of that city until September, 1955. He related</p>			
<b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/11/01 BY 102-117530</b>		<b>AGENCY 6-2, ONI, OSI</b> <small>REQ. RECD. DATE 1-18-56 HOV CFW-2</small>	<i>91842</i>
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</b> <i>BK</i>		<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b> <small>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</small>	
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> <p>5 - Bureau 2 - Memphis (105-121) 2 - New Orleans (105-192) 1 - Indianapolis (105-637)</p>		<i>105-34237-1</i> <p>18 10 JAN 1956</p>	
<i>JAN 20 1956</i>		<b>RECORDED - 4</b> <b>INDEXED - 4</b> <b>EX-125</b>	

IP 105-637

that for a period of approximately two years he owned and operated Ryan's Grocery Store, "F" Street, Route Two, Box 366, Yazoo City, Mississippi. He stated that this small grocery store grossed approximately \$9,000 a year netting him approximately \$2,000. He said that he discontinued his grocery business in September, 1955, when wholesalers and produce dealers refused to sell him grocery goods.

RYAN stated that the refusal of wholesalers and other dealers to supply him was based on pressure exerted by white citizens of Yazoo City who sought to run him out of business because he had signed a petition circulated by the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People calling for the integration of schools. He stated that as a result of this pressure exerted by members of the "People's Committee" of Yazoo City he was completely cut off from his suppliers and was unable to make a living. He stated that he had to sell his grocery store and move from the State of Mississippi.

RYAN informed that he is a member of the local chapter of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People in Yazoo City and that he has served as a member of its executive board. He related that in June or July of 1955 JASPER MAMS, president, Yazoo City Chapter of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People, called at his home and requested him to sign a petition which he believed was for the purpose of securing better schools, protection for school children at street crossings and for better school buildings. RYAN informed that he has a third grade education and his ability to read and write is very limited. He stated that he did not know whether the petition he had signed actually called for the integration of the schools. He stated that he did not read it and did not know the exact details of the petition's contents.

RYAN mentioned that approximately one month later in August, 1955, the Yazoo City Herald, a local newspaper, published an article listing the names of 53 local citizens who had signed a petition circulated by the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People which requested the integration of the schools. RYAN stated that his wife read this article to him and informed that his name was listed among the 53 signers.

IP 105-637

*Miss*  
He advised that during the latter part of August, 1955, he contacted [REDACTED] (phonetic), a white man who is the owner of a lumber yard in Yazoo City, concerning a business matter. He recalled that [REDACTED] remarked "CHARLIE, what's the matter with you, were you drunk." RYAN stated that he inquired as to what [REDACTED] meant by this statement. He stated that [REDACTED] took the news clipping that had been published in the Yazoo City Herald and remarked "you must be crazy or must have been drunk to sign a desegregation petition." RYAN stated that he informed [REDACTED] that he did not sign a desegregation petition and that the document he understood he was signing was a petition calling for better schools.

RYAN informed that [REDACTED] stated "you are going to have to get your name off this or you aint going to get no more support from Yazoo City." RYAN replied "I said O.K., there is nothing for me to do but get my name off because I didn't sign for no white folks school. I don't know how I can go about getting it off but I'll do my best to do so." RYAN added "He said I'd have to do it because I could get nothing to buy or anything in that city whatever."

RYAN advised that following his conversation with [REDACTED] he went across the hall to [REDACTED] bookkeeper, [REDACTED] (phonetic) and asked him how he could go about getting his name off the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People petition. He recalled that he told [REDACTED] that he was willing to withdraw his name from the petition for desegregation of schools and also informed [REDACTED] that he believed that he had signed a petition calling for adequate protection of school children at crossings and for better school buildings. He said that [REDACTED] a notary public, wrote a note for him and that he signed it before [REDACTED] RYAN stated that he did not read the note and that [REDACTED] had folded it and returned it to him and instructed him to take it to the office of Mr. (FNU) PATTUS (phonetic), superintendent of schools, Yazoo City. RYAN mentioned that he took this note to PATTUS's office in the Delta National Bank Building, Yazoo City and informed him that the note was to withdraw his signature from the NAACP petition. RYAN stated that PATTUS took the note and did not make any comment. *Miss*

IP 105-637

He informed that the "Cities or People's Committee of Yazoo City" a group composed of white citizens, met during the first week of September, 1955, and had decided to refuse to accept any withdraws of the 53 signatures from the NAACP petition. RYAN was unable to furnish the exact name of this particular committee or inform of any of the details of its meeting. He stated that he heard a rumor subsequent to the meeting that the committee had stated that the 53 persons should not have signed the petition. RYAN described [redacted] (phonetic), [redacted] in Yazoo City, as a prominent member of this committee.

RYAN informed that immediately following the appearance of the article concerning the petition in the Yazoo City Herald, Bread Delivery Men from the Holsom Colonial and Wonder Bread Companies began passing him up. He stated that he inquired about them leaving bread and the delivery drivers informed him that they had found notes in their trucks instructing them not to leave RYAN any more bread.

He said that subsequently the soft drink delivery men began cutting him out. He stated that drivers for the Coco-Cola, Barge, and Pepsi-Cola soft drink companies informed him that because he had signed a desegregation petition they were not allowed to make any further deliveries to him.

A short time later a salesman for the Merchants Wholesale Company, a produce firm of Jackson, Mississippi, stopped and informed him that he could not make any further sales because he had received orders from the "Segregation Committee" not to sell to him. A salesman from the Gory Grocery Company, a produce house in Yazoo City, called at his store and informed that he had orders from the company not to make any further stops at RYAN's grocery store. He said a man (FNU) [redacted] (phonetic), a candy dealer of Yazoo City, also informed that he was not making any additional deliveries because he had to obey the city laws.

Miss.

IP 105-637

RYAN related that in September, 1955, [REDACTED] (phonetic), a plumber in Yazoo City, called at his home one evening and requested him to go for a ride. He stated that he complied and that during the course of the ride [REDACTED] remarked "if the Negroes think that colored children are going to go to white schools you are thinking wrong because they won't go. We have worked too hard getting that built up and there ain't going to be any National Association For the Advancement of Colored People change it." RYAN stated that he tried to be as friendly as possible during the ride and remarked that since this whole incident occurred he had often feared that something might happen to him because he had signed the petition. He recalled that at the conclusion of the ride he thanked [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] remarked that if he became hard pressed for something to eat to come down to [REDACTED] house but to make sure he came there at night. RYAN also stated that [REDACTED] told him to have a talk with [REDACTED] (phonetic), whom RYAN had described earlier as a member of the "People's Committee".

Miss..

RYAN advised that during the second week of September, 1955 he went to see [REDACTED] and informed him that he had taken action to withdraw his name from the NAACP petition and wanted to know if he could start operating his grocery and get back to work as he owed bills to several people. He stated that [REDACTED] replied that he did not know; however, if RYAN and the others who signed the petition would get JASPER MAMS to come in as a witness and testify that the 53 did not sign the paper for desegregation they would relieve them from this pressure. He said that [REDACTED] asked him for the names of the others behind this thing and remarked that he knew there were some white people involved and they would hold pressure on us until they got to the white persons. RYAN stated that he mentioned to [REDACTED] that he was in need of work and that [REDACTED] told him that he and the others would have to get out of the State of Mississippi if they wanted to work or get a job because they were going to bar them from working in Mississippi.

RYAN informed that he and his wife and his 12 year old daughter continued to subsist on the grocery stock they had in their store and gave away supplies to families of the other petition signers who were desperately in need of food. He related that when the stock was nearly depleted he decided to leave Yazoo City and go to the home of his brother in Gary, Indiana, to see about obtaining a job in Indiana.

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He stated that he departed at the latter part of September, 1955, and remained in Gary. He informed that he left his wife and daughter in Yazoo City instructing the wife to sell their small home and store building for thirty-five hundred dollars. He stated that he purchased the home and store building in 1940 for thirty-five hundred dollars. He mentioned that [redacted] (phonetic), a colored school teacher in Yazoo City, made his wife an offer of thirty-six hundred dollars for the purchase of the house and store building. He said that [redacted] was subsequently informed that if she bought the property from the RYANS she would lose her job as a school teacher. He stated that his fire and storm insurance on the property expired during the early part of the Fall and because of this he was anxious to sell the property and contacted a Gary attorney, [redacted] who negotiated the sale for him. RYAN informed that his home and store building were sold to [redacted] (phonetic) for the sum of seventeen hundred dollars.

RYAN informed that he is acquainted with several of the 53 signers of the petition but did not know all of them. He stated that the following signers of the petition had also experienced economic trouble:

[redacted] (phonetic), a safe owner in Yazoo City, who had been closed down because suppliers refused to sell him anything.

A man nicknamed [redacted] (LNU), who is the co-owner with his wife of a small grocery store in Yazoo City and who also operates a sand and gravel business. He stated that [redacted] subsequently discontinued business because he had been unable to get supplies.

He mentioned that [redacted] [redacted] Miss [redacted] Yazoo City, a farmer, who also owned a small store building which he had been renting to a white man named (FNU) [redacted] had been forced to sell the building to [redacted] because [redacted] had informed him that he would be unable to pay him any additional rent because he had signed the petition for desegregation. He also related that [redacted] experienced difficulty in getting cotton sacks for his cotton and was unable to get his cotton ginned until one of the Yazoo City attorneys named (FNU) [redacted] helped him to have it ginned because [redacted] had owed him some money. RYAN stated that

IP 105-637

[redacted] United States Post Office, Yazoo City, had been discharged from his position because his wife had signed the NAACP petition. He stated that he subsequently learned that [redacted] had been reinstated.

RYAN stated that several of the 53 signers who had been employed in the sawmills in Yazoo City were subsequently fired and that he knew of a few farmers who had signed the petition who are experiencing difficulty in getting sacks for their cotton and were unable to have their cotton ginned.

RYAN asserted that the economic pressure brought to bear on him and others was definitely the action of a group in Yazoo City. He believed that the group is the "Cities or People's Committee". He stated that [redacted] (phonetic), [redacted] (phonetic) and [redacted] are members of the "People's Committee". He related that following the meeting of the committee in the early part of September, 1955, where action was taken to refuse the withdrawal of the signatures on the NAACP petition, [redacted] contacted him and told him that if this committee had left it to he and [redacted] (phonetic) that they would have settled the whole thing themselves. However, [redacted] stated that they were unable to settle it because of "these young hot heads on the committee". RYAN recalled that [redacted] remarked that he and [redacted] were unable to go against the whole town on this matter.

- RUC -

IP 105-637

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI

Will locate and interview the following individuals concerning economic pressure exerted against them and determine whether alleged economic pressure brought to bear was by individuals or as a result of group action or approval.

1. [REDACTED] (phonetic), cafe owner, Yazoo City.
2. [REDACTED] (LNU), proprietor of grocery store and sand and gravel business in Yazoo City.
3. [REDACTED] Yazoo City.
4. [REDACTED] mail carrier, United States Post Office, Yazoo City.

REFERENCE

New Orleans airtel to Director, dated December 28, 1955.  
Indianapolis airtel to Director and New Orleans, dated January 4, 1956.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

b6  
b7C

JANUARY 6, 1956

TELETYPE

SAC, MEMPHIS  
NEW ORLEANS

URGENT

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI, IS DASH X. REBULET  
TO AAG TOMPKINS DECEMBER SIXTEEN LAST COPIES TO YOUR OFFICES  
INSTRUCTING SPECIFIC INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENT BE  
CONDUCTED AND RESULTS FURNISHED IN REPORT FORM TO REACH BUREAU  
BY JANUARY NINE NEXT. THIS DEADLINE MUST BE MET WITHOUT FAIL.

HOOVER

BUFILE 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-11-11 BY G-267-NLS-EP/L55  
9/84/21

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
105-34237-14

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EX-126

29 JAN 10 1956

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

VH.28

22 JAN 6 1956  
TELETYPE  
71 JAN 12 1956

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

152P EW

FBI WASH FIELD

1/3/56

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. [redacted]	_____
Mr. Mason	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
AIRTEL	Winterrowd
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

W. J. SIMMONS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
JACKSON COUNCIL, ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES

Rebunmemo 12/13/55 and Baltimore airtel 12/23/55 requesting  
WFO review ONI and G-2 records concerning W. J. SIMMONS.  
ONI and G-2 records reviewed 12/30/55 by SEs [redacted]  
[redacted] and [redacted]

ONI records contain no pertinent information in addition  
to that already in Bureau files.

Records, Security Division, G-2, reflect the name of one  
W. SIMMONS appears on Page 40 of a file titled CIVILIANS  
DISCHARGED FOR REASON FROM GOVERNMENTAL PROJECTS, 8th  
Corps Area, dated 6/15/42, signed by A. W. ROFFE, Colonel,  
GSC, Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2. Reason for discharge,  
service unsatisfactory. Address of employee number, New  
Boston, Texas. Station discharging, Red River Ordnance  
Plant.

RUC.

LAUGHLIN *LH*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/11/01 BY [redacted]

3 Bureau  
1 WFO (44-246)

JWS:VIM

Mr. Belmont

1/11/56 11:38 AM 28

FBI - WASH FIELD  
REC'D. 105-34237

RECORDED - 44

EX-126

21 JAN 10 1956

INT

cc - [redacted]

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

January 9, 1956

RECORDED - 44

Director, FBI

EX-160  
W. J. SIMMONS  
Executive Secretary, Jackson Council  
Association of Citizens Councils of  
Mississippi  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES  
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/17/01 BY [redacted]  
X 91842/EP/LH

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 7, 1955, your reference WO:ABG:ABG, 144-2-130, 146-1-2402, in which you requested that contact be made with the Office of Naval Intelligence and the military intelligence of the United States Army to determine what information is available concerning W. J. Simmons' service in the British Army and the United States Navy and the reasons for his discharge or release from both services. Reference is also made to my reply thereto dated December 13, 1955.

Records of the Office of Naval Intelligence reveal that William James Simmons, ex-AS, 644 52 61 USN, was discharged from the United States Navy effective August 15, 1942, because of a history of psychopathic state of the schizoid type. His date and place of birth were shown as July 7, 1916, Utica Mississippi. Records of the Office of Naval Intelligence contained no additional information concerning Simmons.

No record of W. J. Simmons was located in the files of G-2, Department of the Army.

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

NOTE: Department requested G-2 and ONI only be contacted. No request made of [redacted] inasmuch as there is no indication Simmons served in the British Army.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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FBI - MEMPHIS

CHW

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*2*  
**TO:** Mr. L. V. Boardman *and*

**FROM:** Mr. A. H. Belmont *9*

**SUBJECT:** ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
Bufile 105-34237

**DATE:** January 4,  
1956

cc-Boardman  
cc-Belmont  
cc-Rosen  
cc- [redacted]  
cc- [redacted]

Tolson	_____
Bromden	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/01 BY 60267KLS/SEP/2001*  
*#918421*  
 By memorandum dated December 29, 1955, you were advised the Department furnished a Photostat of a letter dated December 3, 1955, from L. G. Patterson, Jackson, Mississippi, in which Patterson alleged the citizens councils in Mississippi are applying economic pressure on Negroes. It was recommended that Patterson be interviewed in connection with the allegations in his letter. The Director noted "Let me have results for A. G. conf on Jan. 5. H."

L. G. Patterson, a white male and resident of Mississippi since 1927, was interviewed and advised he has written several letters to the Attorney General on the segregation issue and regarding citizens councils. He has also written letters under assumed name to newspapers on same subjects. Patterson could furnish no information except what he has read in newspapers concerning economic pressure applied by Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi; was unable to name anyone who has been put in fear of life for voicing opinions; was unable to furnish the name of any Negro who has been scared or intimidated and could furnish no information concerning threats or violence to deny any individuals their rights under the Constitution. Patterson said it was only his opinion that all senators, representatives and congressmen from Mississippi are members of citizens councils.

Patterson cited two instances in which preachers who advocated integration lost their churches and another incident in which a preacher advocated integration and was informed by his congregation that this did not meet with their approval. He also stated that it is his opinion from newspaper accounts that at least four murders have been committed in Mississippi as result of citizens councils' activity.

This information is being included in the memorandum for use by the Director at the Civil Rights Conference in the Office of Attorney General, January 5, 1956.

Enclosure part 1-5-~~58~~

RECORDED - 44

105-34237-1  
JAN 10 1956

CFW: bew

(6)

INDEXED - 44

EX-126

JAN 10 1956

INT. 01/10/1956

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

There is attached a letter to the Department furnishing the results of this interview with Patterson. If you approve, it is recommended this letter be sent.

CFW JJB  
pmz JJB  
JAS

✓

x

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: January 4,  
1956

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
BUFILE 105-34327ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/10 BY 45267NBS

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	+
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____

The press attributed to Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III a statement that the Department is giving "careful attention" to activities of citizens councils functioning in the South in order to determine if any Federal civil rights statutes have been violated. This statement was in response to a letter to the Department from the Jewish Labor Committee of New York City regarding the disappearance of Emmett Louis Till near Money, Mississippi; killing of George W. Lee, Belzoni, Mississippi; and shooting of Gus Courts, Belzoni, Mississippi. The Director commented "Be certain activities of this group are covered in memo for me for use at Jan. 5 conference. H."

General information concerning the 100 plus citizens councils and prosegregation organizations about which the Bureau has received data has been included in the memorandum for the Director's use at the 1-5-56 conference with the Attorney General. Of necessity detailed information concerning each of these councils was not included.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. There is attached supplemental detailed information concerning the Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi which should be inserted in the brief to be used by the Director for the conference on 1-5-56. Also included in this insert are the results of an interview with L.G.Patterson about which a separate memorandum has been prepared and the question of interviewing officials of the captioned organization also the subject of a separate memorandum. It is recommended that the attached be inserted in the brief for the Director's use. These are pages 27B, 27C, and 27D.

ENCLOSURE  
Enclosure - See page 2  
CFW:bas

(6)

- 1 - Mr. Boardman
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - [redacted]
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - [redacted]

RECORDED - 45-34327-147 SEE PAGE 2

EX-120 16 JAN 10 1956

JAN 18 1956 gml

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

2. There is attached a revised page 27E of the brief to reflect information telephonically received from Dr. Harry Snatic of Lake Charles, Louisiana, on 1/3/56, regarding the organization to be formed on 1/4/56 called "The Guardians and Custodians of Segregation." A revised copy of page 4 of the summary is also included to reflect the information received from Dr. Snatic.

3. Also attached is a revised copy of page 23 of the brief to reflect information received that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People plans a National Conference on Civil Rights to be held in Washington, D. C. in February, 1956, and that the Communist Party reportedly has established a commission to discuss preparations for this Conference which the Party describes as a "March on Washington." Also attached is a revised copy of page 2A of the summary to summarize the information regarding this National Conference on Civil Rights.

P  
R  
Bla

V

New revision  
Message to  
old pg 4 deleted from clm

# U.S. Probes White 'Citizens' Councils'

## Justice Department Seeks Basis for Federal Action

WASHINGTON—~~(P)~~—The Justice Department said Thursday it is giving "careful attention" to activities of the white Citizens Councils functioning in the South to preserve racial segregation.

The department is investigating whether any federal civil rights statutes, the necessary base for any federal intervention, have been violated.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Warren Olney III, in charge of criminal prosecutions, and Arthur B. Caldwell, chief of the civil rights section, gave this information to the Jewish Labor Committee of New York City, which recently asked for an investigation of the councils.

The department letter said:

"The activities of the white citizens councils are receiving the department's careful attention. You may be assured that appropriate measures will be taken should the investigation establish the department's jurisdiction and authority."

Ordinarily, the federal government cannot intervene in activities of private citizens in relation to civil rights. However, the federal statutes provide for such intervention if the authority of public officials or police are employed to give authority of law to any deprivation of civil rights.

The Jewish Labor Committee request referred to recent reported acts of violence against Negroes in Mississippi.

The letter specifically referred to the disappearance of Emmet Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, on Aug. 29 near Money, Miss.; the killing of the Rev. George W. Lee of Belzoni, Miss. Last May, and the shooting of Gus Courts, Negro grocer of Belzoni, in November.

The Justice Department has been looking into these and other cases of reported violence, but has said that in its opinion it had no jurisdiction in the Till case.

Two white men were acquitted on murder charges in connection with that disappearance.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/16/0 BY 10247 MJS  
1915121 EPL/DR

105-34237-147

ENCLOSURE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: December 29, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
Bufile 105-34237

Tolson  
Boardman  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Sizoo  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

*44-2747-11569-157*

By memorandum dated 12/27/55 (attached) the Department furnished a Photostat of a letter from L. G. Patterson, Jackson, Mississippi, in which Patterson furnished information concerning economic pressure being applied on Negroes in the State of Mississippi by citizens councils. Patterson also stated that he is afraid to contact the FBI concerning this matter and did not expect to get any results if he did contact the Bureau.

In December, 1954, the Department suggested an investigation of the captioned organization in connection with Executive Order 10450. At that time an investigation was initiated. By memoranda dated 11/22/55, 12/2/55, 12/9/55 and 12/12/55 the Department requested the investigation be intensified and that certain individuals who made allegations concerning economic pressure being applied be interviewed. By letter dated 12/16/55 New Orleans and Memphis were so advised to intensify investigation and submit results by 1/9/56.

Inasmuch as Patterson claims to have pertinent information concerning the captioned organization, it is believed desirable that he be interviewed for this information.

RECOMMENDATION:

Attached is a letter to the Department advising Patterson is being interviewed in connection with the allegations set forth in his letter. The New Orleans Office is being instructed to interview Patterson immediately for all information in his possession relative to Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi.

RECORDED-27

105-34237-149

Enclosures (2)

cc - Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont

12-30-58

EX-126

147 JAN 11 1955

Ref to  
1-1-56 CFW:dae  
NFE (4)

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cc Mr. Boardman  
cc Mr. Belmont  
cc Mr. Rosen  
cc [redacted]

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

January 4, 1956

AT

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I  
FBI File 105-34287

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/13/01 BY GOL/EP/Lmf  
918471

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 27, 1955, captioned "Letter Dated December 3, 1955, from L. G. Patterson, W. Jackson, Mississippi," your reference 144-2-130 WO:MWH:wmw, with which you furnished a Photostat of the letter from L. G. Patterson. Reference is also made to my reply thereto dated December 30, 1955, captioned as above.

For your information L. G. Patterson, a white male and resident of Mississippi since 1927, was interviewed and advised he has written several letters to the Attorney General on the segregation issue and regarding citizens councils. Also, he has written letters under an assumed name to newspapers on the same subjects. He advised that he has no information except what he has read in the newspapers regarding citizens councils applying economic pressure. He cited the situation at Yazoo City, Mississippi, which he read about in the newspapers, as an example. He was unable to furnish the name of anyone who has been put in fear of his life for voting opinions. However, he stated everyone knows at least four murders have been committed in Mississippi as a result of citizens councils' activity. He claimed this opinion from newspaper accounts.

COMM - FBI  
JAN 5 - 1956  
MAILED 30

Patterson was unable to furnish the name of any Negro who had been scared or intimidated but advised newspapers have given names of Negroes who have withdrawn their names from integration petitions and that in his opinion they were undoubtedly intimidated and scared into doing so. Patterson cited newspaper stories of Reverend Marsh Callaway, Durant, Mississippi, being dismissed from the Presbyterian Church for voicing his opinion and also claimed Reverend James Campbell, Poplar Chapel Methodist Church,

RECORDED-27

Enclosure to memo to Boardman from Belmont 1/4/56 CFW:bew:dlj

35

105-34287-  
JAN 11 1956

CFW:bew:dlj  
(9)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Memorandum for Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III*

*Banks County, Mississippi, was contacted by church members after preaching a sermon on integration which did not meet with the members' approval. Also, after the newspaper "States-Times," Jackson, Mississippi, indicated it would publish comments on Campbell's sermon, Campbell informed that newspaper if it would not publish his comments and would forget the matter he would also forget it. Patterson claimed another Methodist preacher in northern Mississippi, whose name was unknown, had lost his church because he voiced a contrary opinion on segregation. Patterson heard of this incident and could not recall the source.*

*Patterson stated it is his opinion that all Senators and Representatives from Mississippi are members of citizens councils and he does not think they could be elected if they are not members. Also, from press accounts they are supporting the councils. He had no information concerning economic pressure being applied against any individuals or threats of violence to deny any individuals their rights under the Constitution of the United States.*

*loc - Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tempkin*

*jdd*

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MEMPHIS

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 1/6/56	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/27-30/55; 1/3-5/56	REPORT MADE BY LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR. (A) bs/dfs
TITLE  ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI		CHARACTER OF CASE  INTERNAL SECURITY - X	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Five Negroes who had signed school intergration petition, Yazoo City, Miss., gave statements to the effect economic pressure exerted against them by citizens in community allegedly at behest of Citizens' Council of Yazoo City. ~~ALLEGED~~ state they are registered voters of Yazoo City and have not been denied the right to vote. Members of Citizens' Council accused of exerting pressure claim they merely refused to have business dealings with their known enemies and that such action was taken on their own initiative without any recommendation or direction on part of Citizens' Council or any other organization. Responsible citizens who head Citizens' Council of Yazoo City admit publishing and circulating names of those Negroes who had signed a school integration petition in order that the 600 Citizens' Council members of Yazoo City would know who was "on the other side." Citizens' Council officials deny recommending or suggesting to its members any action to be taken against petition signers. Citizens' Council of Yazoo City organized for purpose of maintaining segregation by legal means and to prevent violence and bloodshed and is for protection of both Negro and white races, according to members of Citizens' Council.

0-17 NO 1/10/56 to declare it,  
& advise intelligence agencies  
686

Let RAB 2/10/56 } advertising  
- P Let G-2, ONI, OSI 2/10/56 } correction for  
line 4 of synopsis

AGENCY G-2, ONI, OSI by 686  
REQ. REC'D 1/10/56  
DATE FORW. 1/10/56  
HOW FORW.  
BY FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080  
ON 3/16/77 LEO/rjk

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  MHC	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  28	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES  105-1-A	RECORDED #5  INDEXED - 71
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1-12 686 FEB 1956

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STAT. 1/21

NO 105-492/dfs

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IV. Interviews with Individuals Accused of Exerting Pressure	23
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NO 105-492/bs

I. PREDICATION

There recently appeared an article entitled, "The Victims" in the New York Post written by MURRAY KEMPTON which stated that last August 6, (1955) in Yazoo City, Mississippi, 53 Negroes petitioned the local Board of Education to admit their children to the white school. Ten days later the Yazoo Herald published a paid advertisement listing in 14-point type the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of every one of the signers. According to the article, at the bottom ran the credit line: "Published as a public service by the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City."

Those individuals named in the article were as follows:

JASPER MIMS  
HOOVER HARVEY  
ARTHUR BERRY  
NATHAN STEWART  
EMILY BALL

JOHN COVINGTON *LL*  
LILLIAN YOUNG  
HARRY YOUNG  
JIMMIE WRIGHT *MICH.*  
CHARLES RYAN

The article indicated that MIMS, treasurer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), had been a carpenter in Yazoo City for thirty years and before his name appeared in the Herald, he used to earn \$150.00 in a good week; but since his name appeared, he hasn't had a call for work.

The article stated that HARVEY was a plumber with a largely white practice, but it was all gone now and he was down to \$20.00 a week. BERRY was described as president of the Yazoo City NAACP, according to the article, and it further stated that NATHAN STEWART was the most successful Negro grocer in town, with an income of no less than \$300.00 a week. It reported that he signed the school petition along with two other merchants, EMILY BALL and CHARLES RYAN, and when their names appeared in that paper, every wholesaler in town refused to supply them even for cash and BERRY was quoted as saying "even Coca Cola." The article stated that "Coca Cola, Nabisco, Colonial Bread, Falstaff, Schlitz, Blue Ribbon, and Pabst Beer; their Yazoo City dealers, enfranchised by these northern corporations, all united to drive these poor Negroes out of business. The Delta National Bank told Stewart to come and get his money." All three of these grocers were reported to have closed their stores, and STEWART reportedly had left town.

The article stated that JOHN COVINGTON took his name off of the petition, but BEN GOLDSTEIN, the junk dealer, fired

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him anyway. It stated that Mrs. LILLIAN YOUNG signed the petition and McGraw Lumber Company fired her husband, HARRY. It reported that she went to the A & P a few days after her name was published and picked out \$10.00 or \$12.00 worth of groceries. It reported that the man who operated the meat market came to the front of the store and said "this nigger woman is one of the signers of the petition," and the clerk refused to sell to her. It stated that the YOUNGS went to Chicago in the early part of September.

According to the article, HOOVER HARVEY was installing fixtures at the home of JOSEPH HENDRIX, the lumber dealer, when the Yazoo City Citizens' Council published his name. He reportedly said that he and his partner, JIMMY WRIGHT, had both signed the petition and Mrs. HENDRIX came in with the paper, and told them they'd better get their names off the petition. She reportedly told them where to go and who to see and said that if they did, she'd give them the work on her daughter's house. The article said that JIMMY WRIGHT went in the next day and took his name off, but he didn't get the work or any other and now he'd gone to Detroit.

## II. ORIGIN, SCOPE, AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF CITIZENS' COUNCIL OF YAZOO CITY

Other than as a matter of general background information, the investigation conducted and recorded in this report pertains to the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

It has previously been reported that the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi was first established in July 1954 in Indianola, Mississippi, and has chapters throughout the State of Mississippi, one of which is the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

The Yazoo City Herald, published in Yazoo City, Mississippi, was reviewed on December 29, 1955, at the Department of Archives and History, War Memorial Building, Jackson, Mississippi, and all publications from August 4, 1955, to date were examined. This is a weekly publication published each Thursday.

On Thursday, August 25, 1955, a full page advertisement appeared in this paper and is as follows:

NO 105-492/bs

"Here is an Authentic List of the Purported Signers to a NAACP Communication to Our School Board:

NAME	ADDRESS
Jeff Anderson	RFD 2, Box 420
✓ Emily Ball	608 Calhoun Ave.
✓ Carl Brown	Lindsey Lawn Apt: 52
Margaret Campbell	219½ 1st St.
Mrs. Addie Carter	177 Charles St.
Phillip Coleman	Rt. B 217
Corrinne Collins	705 W. 2nd St.
Ellen Copeland	514 W. 2nd St.
✓ Johnnie Covington	196 2nd St.
Carter Davis	440 W. Broadway
Mrs. Emma Lee Gibbs	314 W. 1st St.
Murphy Grant	Rt. 2, Box 317
Lonnie Green Jr.	519 W. 2nd St.
Martha Guider	512 So. Monroe St.
Frankie Hamon	807 W. Madison St.
✓ Hoover Harvey	534 2nd St.
Lloyd Jackson,	Rt. 2, Box 395
Annie Johnson	407 6th St.
Murphy Jones	521 So. Morse
Reuben Jones	428 West Bway St.
Mrs. Earnest Little	213 Lamar Ave.
Caesar Lloyd	208 Lamar
Bessie Maddox	510 So. Monroe
Willie Mae Maples	226 West 3 St.
James Martin	11 St., Rt. 4
Natalie McCoy	220 2nd St.
Emdell McGruder	514 West Secen
Jasper Mims	194 Charles St.
E. J. Mitchell	702 Madison
R. G. Plums	418 W. Broadway
Earline Redmon	405 Champlain
C. H. Ryan,	Rt. 2, Box 366
Gladys Smith	808 W. Madison St.
Odesser Smith	417 S. Monroe St.
Perrine A. Stephens	Rt. 2, Box 42
Nathan Stewart	202 5th St.
Mrs. Ruthie B. Taylor	304 1st St.
Lottie Mae Tubbs	806 West 2nd
Ben Turner	Rt. 1, Box 522
Van B. Turner	Rt. 2, Box 58

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NAME	ADDRESS
Frankie G. Vaughan	419 Clay St.
Mrs. Anna Mae Wallace	202 LeVee St.
Ledora Wheeler	815 West 2nd St.
Annie Bell Whistleton	Lindsey Lawn Apt. 61
Lear White	1003 Grand Ave.
Louella Williams	225 Lamar Ave.
Oscar Williams	308 Charles St.
Stella Wilson	106 Cherry St.
Grant Winters	511 W. Madison
Rebecca Winters	904 W. Madison
J. H. Wright	402 Clay
Lillian L. Young	513 Ridge Rd. St.
Whitt Young	415 Brand St.

this list is published as a public service by the Citizens Council of Yazoo City, Mississippi. This is the complete list as appeared originally in the Yazoo City Herald, August 18, 1955. Spelling is as near to the original signatures as could be determined."

On Thursday, August 25, 1955, on the front page of The Yazoo Herald three articles appeared under the block heading, "Public Invited to Meeting of Citizens' Council Friday." One of the articles was further captioned, "Discussion Aims to Preserve Racial Harmony." This article stated that "in an effort to preserve and maintain the peace and tranquility of the community an open meeting is being called tomorrow (Friday) at 8 PM in the Annie Ellis School auditorium."

The article said that the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City is sponsoring the meeting and is planning for a capacity crowd of men and women in attendance. The article quoted a council spokesman as stressing that the meeting was not just for members, but was for the public and "every white man or woman in the City was urged to come."

The article stated that council officers would conduct a general discussion of what can be done locally to preserve harmony among white and Negro races.

It was reported in the article that "giving rise to the meeting was the recent action taken by members of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, Yazoo City

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Branch." It said that a petition had been filed with the Board of Trustees, Yazoo City Public Schools, asking for the immediate re-organization of the city schools on a non-discriminatory basis.

Under the same block heading was another article, captioned "NAACP States Demands to Board" and the text of the petition was set out.

Also under the same block heading was another article captioned "Thirty Three Withdraw Names, Plead Misrepresentation." The article named 33 signers of the petition who asked that their names be removed or disregarded. The article did not state the nature of the misrepresentation referred to in the caption.

On September 1, 1955, an article appeared in The Yazoo City Herald under the caption "Highly Successful Describes Meeting of Citizens' Council." This article stated that men and women packed the auditorium for the public meeting called by the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, Friday night (August 26, 1955).

It further stated that "aimed at preserving and maintaining the peace and tranquility of this community, the discussions were described as 'highly successful' by a council spokesman-harmony and complete unison was evident throughout the Annie Ellison Auditorium."

It said that the meeting was called to acquaint the public with the details concerning the recent petitioning action of the Yazoo City branch of the NAACP and that there were 53 signers asking for desegregation of the City Public Schools.

On September 1, 8, and 15, 1955, articles appeared in The Yazoo City Herald indicating that various signers of the petition had requested that their names be removed and on the latter date only the names of EARLINE REDMON, FRANKIE G. VAUGHAN, and ESTALIA WILSON remained on the petition.

On September 29, 1955, an article appeared in The Yazoo City Herald under the caption "Gillespie Speaks Out on Segregation Here."

This article quoted Dr. GUY T. GILLESPINE, president emeritus of Belhaven College, Jackson, as saying integration is not the answer to segregation and that integration would not solve the problem, but make it worse "citing the Bible makes no mention of integration, Dr. GILLESPINE said the Lord usually left the social customs of people alone."

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In an advertisement placed by the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City in The Yazoo City Herald on November 17, 1955, soliciting members, it was stated, "The Council is the only organization that is dedicated to maintain segregation of the races while preserving the peace and harmony of the people and the traditions of the South."

Another article appeared on November 17, 1955, in this same paper announcing the launching of the 1956 membership drive. This article stated that the "Yazoo City Citizens' Council is dedicated to the maintenance of segregation of the races to the end that peace, good order, the orderly processes of the law and domestic tranquility may be preserved in our community and in our State." It further said that the Yazoo City Citizens' Council was one of five such councils organized in Yazoo County. It stated that Benton, Bentonia, Holly Bluff, and Satartia all have their own councils and are coordinated with the Yazoo City Council on a county-wide basis. It was said that Eden and Carter are included in the Yazoo City Council.

### III. INTERVIEWS WITH SCHOOL INTEGRATION PETITION SIGNERS

On December 27, 1955, JASPER MIMS was interviewed at Yazoo City, Mississippi, and he furnished the following signed statement:

"Yazoo City, Miss.  
"December 27, 1955

"I, Jasper Mims, 194 Charles, Yazoo City, Miss. do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and Laurence J. Frank, Jr. who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am 49 years of age, having been born April 8, 1906, Holmes County, Miss. I am presently employed as a carpenter for myself and also operate a farm.

"On August 6, 1955 I signed a petition submitted to the Yazoo County School Board requesting the immediate admission of colored children to the white schools. At that time I was treasurer of the NAACP and I was acting in that capacity as well as a citizen of Yazoo County.

"About August 15, 1955 my wife received a call over the telephone from a male believed to be a white person. My wife

NO 105-492/b6

was told that my body had been found in the lake and he wanted to know where she wanted it buried. My wife came to the church where I was and told me about the call.

"The following day I received a call which was after the petition had been published in the paper. The caller was a male person and said to me 'you want your children to go to school with the white children, well come by the High School tonight and your eyes will be opened.' I received several other telephone calls from males telling me that I would never live to see my children in school with the white children. My wife receive a call on one occasion after this from a man that she thought was [redacted]. He told her that if she wanted to make some quick money, she ought to take out some insurance on me because I didn't have but a few hours to live.

"About 10 or 15 days after I signed the petition, Mr. R. M. Milton of Milton Furniture Store came to my house and called me to the car. [redacted] another colored man, came up to the car and in his presence, Mr. Milton said that it never would be that any colored child could go to school with the white children and that it didn't matter what the Supreme Court or anyone else said, it never would happen in Mississippi. Mr. Milton said that he was a member of the Citizens' Council and the Citizens' Council had passed a resolution to put the pressure on every negro who signed the petition for integration and registered to vote in Yazoo County.

"I have been harrassed by telephone calls and in other ways ever since I signed the petition. On one occasion the negro ambulance was sent to my home to pick up my body.

"The first effect all of this had on me was when I started loosing my tenants. Two of my tenants who had signed the petition left and went north. One of them was [redacted] who went to Chicago, Illinois. I don't remember the other names. Then two more of my tenants, [redacted] and [redacted] moved. [redacted] told me that [redacted] had told them that if they wanted their jobs at McGraw & Kern Mill they would have to move. [redacted] and [redacted] still live in Yazoo City on [redacted]

"Another tenant of mine, [redacted] who rents a store from me, told me that he had been told that he

NO 105-492/bs

had to move. [redacted] and [redacted] according to him told him that the Citizens' Council wanted him to move or buy my store. He could only borrow about \$800.00 from the bank and I wouldn't sell him the store for that. I understand that the reason they wanted him to move was because he was renting from me.

"Shortly after the petition appeared in the paper with my name signed to it I tried to buy 4 bags of mortar mix and a yard of sand from Stewart Lumber Co. [redacted] told me that he would deliver it but he didn't. The next day I called him and asked him about the order and when he could deliver it and he hung up.

"I next called Hendrix Lumber Co. and talked to [redacted] [redacted] I asked the price of mortar mix and sand and she told me. She also asked if I was Jasper Mims and when I told her I was, she said she couldn't send the order. I asked when she could and she said she just couldn't send it at all. No other reason was given.

"Then I went to Gilbert Lumber Co. and the bookkeeper took my order. I asked that the mortar mix and sand be delivered. Before I got home [redacted] came to my house and told my wife that he couldn't deliver the material and gave her my signature which had been torn from my check.

"I tried to get [redacted] a grocery store at the corner of First & Champion to buy some roofing for me, but he told me he couldn't because the Citizens' Council would put him out of business if he did.

"I used to get plenty of carpentry work but since I signed the petition I haven't got much of any work. I haven't lost any jobs or been fired from any, but I just don't get any. It seems like neither the colored nor white will hire me as a carpenter.

"At no time since I signed the petition or since I have been registered to vote have I been subjected to acts of violence. One colored fellow named [redacted] who lives on [redacted] blamed me for his wife signing the petition and told me that he ought to beat my head into mush for getting his wife to sign the petition.

NO 105-492/b5

"After I received the calls and threats, I removed my name from the petition. I did this of my own accord. I also have been voting in Yazoo County for about 7 years. I have voted without any trouble and no one has tried to keep me from voting.

"I actually am fearful of my life and believe that I could be killed if I went out at night. I believe it could be colored or white that might try to kill me. I believe that colored might try because of friendship with the white people.

"The above statement has been read to me by Mr. Frank and it is true and correct.

"/s/ Jasper Mims

"Witnessed:

"L. J. Frank, Jr., Special Agent, F.B.I., New Orleans, La.

MIMS subsequently advised that the person referred to in his statement as R. M. MILTON was, in fact, R. M. MIDDLETON. MIMS also said he was never told the nature of the meeting at the school but thought it was a Citizens' Council meeting. He said that [redacted] and [redacted] had been subjected to economic pressure and claimed they had told him they were unable to buy butane gas for their systems.

An investigation was previously conducted in September 1955 with reference to a letter which JASPER MIMS had received, which letter accused him of being the head of the NAACP in Yazoo City. The letter told MIMS that he and his friends, [redacted] and [redacted] should get themselves ready to meet "the Lord." This letter was received by MIMS about the middle of August 1955 just after he and others had signed the school integration petition. The identity of the writer of this letter was never determined.

MIMS stated that although he had no definite proof, he attributed this letter, as well as the other acts mentioned in his signed statement to the activities of the Citizens' Council in Yazoo City which he described as an organization composed of the majority of white citizens in the community whom he claimed had

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sworn to use threats and economic pressure to prevent the Negro citizens from exercising their voting privileges.

On December 27, 1955, ARTHUR BERRY was interviewed at which time he furnished the following signed statement:

"Yazoo City, Miss.  
"December 27, 1955

"I, Arthur Berry, 412 Clay Avenue, Yazoo City, Miss. do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and Laurence J. Frank Jr. who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am 61 years of age, having been born July 21, 1894 in Holmes County, Miss. I am a bricklayer by trade.

"On August 6, 1955 I circulated a petition to integrate the public schools in Yazoo County, Miss. which had been furnished me as president of the Yazoo County Chapter of the NAACP by the National Headquarters of the NAACP. Jasper Mims and I circulated the petition but I did not sign it since I didn't have any children of school age.

"About 2½ weeks after the petition was filed, it was published in the newspaper.

"Economic pressure had commenced against me even before this and as I recall about March, 1955 I had a job with [redacted] [redacted] I met [redacted] at Gilbert Lumber Co. and he was talking to [redacted]. They were looking at a typewritten sheet and I had gone there to see about material for the job. That same day [redacted] told me that he wouldn't go through with the job, but he didn't tell me why. He did go ahead with the job the same day and got [redacted] a colored bricklayer to do the job. I believe that this action was taken because I am a registered voter in Yazoo County and also active in the NAACP. However I have no proof that this is the cause, nor that the Citizens' Council was back of this. I have never been denied the right to vote when I went to cast my ballot, however, I did not try to vote in the 2nd Primary in August, 1955, because I was afraid to. No one had threatened me, but this was right after the petition had been filed and things were pretty hot between the colored

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and white at that time, but I had been threatened about the petition.

"The first telephone call I had about the petition came to my wife. She received a call from a man, who talked like a white man. She told me that the caller had said 'tell that son-of-a-bitch that we are going to shoot him and Jasper Mims down for trying to integrate our schools.' The caller didn't identify himself or who 'we' were. This call was made about August 28, 1955.

"On the Monday that the Emmett Till trial began in Sumner, Miss., I received a call at about 5:30 pm from man, and he sounded like a man 65 years old. He asked if I was Arthur Berry and when I told him I was, he said 'Arthur listen real good. I have heard about what you have been doing around here you son-of-a-bitch and you better cut it out. If you don't cut it out somebody will find you in the river with your belly cut wide open you son-of-a-bitch you.' I said who is this please and he said 'never mind about who it is you son-of-a-bitch but if you don't believe we mean business drive by the elementary school tomorrow night at 8:00 o'clock and you will see what a crowd will be at our meeting.'

"The following morning I received another call, and at that time another man who seems to be a younger man called and asked if I was here. I pretended that I was not Arthur Berry and asked if I could take a message. He said 'when are they going to have his funeral and I said 'I don't know is he dead?' The call said 'Yes, that someone had just killed him' and he hung up.

"The last call was December 11, 1955, and this came to my wife from a man. According to my wife, the caller asked for Arthur Berry and my wife told him I wasn't in. He asked when I would be back and then he said 'we would have done killed that son-of-a-bitch, but everytime we have had a chance, you were in the car and we don't want to kill you.' She asked 'What has he done that you want to kill him' and the caller said 'he is publishing a lot of damn mess in the newspapers' and my wife said 'what papers,' and he said 'in todays Jackson-Daily News talking about he is going to carry us to court.' He said 'integration may happen here but he will never live to see it happen.' 'We didn't get old

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Courts but we will get old Arthur.' He said 'we are going to kill every damn NAACP president in the State of Mississippi and as a final warning if you be in the car with him from now on it will be just too bad.' My wife said this man didn't say who 'we' were.

"Now I don't get any work at all around town, whereas before the petition was published I was busy about three fourths of the time. I work some for colored people but don't get any jobs with white people.

"There have been no acts of violence committed against me.

"I believe that the Citizens Council has been responsible for my failure to get jobs and for the calls that I have received, but I have no proof of this fact.

"The above statement has been read to me by Mr. Frank and it is true and correct.

"/s/ Arthur Berry

"Witnessed:

"L. J. Frank, Jr. Special Agent, F.B.I. New Orleans, La.

[redacted] advised on December 27, 1955, that she had received several of the telephone calls mentioned by her husband, but stated that she could not add anything to what her husband has already reported about them. She denied that she knew who made the calls and claimed that she did not have any knowledge of the incidents other than already related by her husband.

[redacted] was interviewed on December 28, 1955, at which time he furnished the following signed statement:

"Yazoo City, Miss.  
December 28, 1955

"I, [redacted] Yazoo City, Miss. do make the following voluntary statement to

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[redacted] and Laurence J. Frank, Jr. who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am [redacted] years of age having been born [redacted] in [redacted]. I am presently unemployed but am a plumber by trade.

"On or about August 6, 1955, I signed a petition circulated by Jasper Mims and Arthur Berry, who are officials in the NAACP of which I am a member and also [redacted].

[redacted] This petition called for the immediate integration of the races in the public schools in Yazoo County and was filed with the Yazoo County School Board.

"About ten or twelve days later [redacted] for whom James H. Wright and I were doing a plumbing job came to us and told us that we should take our names off of the petition if we expected to finish that job and do any other work for her. She told us that if we took our name off of the petition she would let us finish the plumbing job we had started on her daughter's house. She suggested that Wright and I see her husband, [redacted] and he could refer us to some of the officials who could see about getting our names removed. She didn't identify the officials, but I thought she had reference to officials of the Citizens' Council or School Board.

"When I removed my name, I went to [redacted] of the Delta National Bank and he told me to go see [redacted] the City Clerk. When I went to see [redacted] she told me that I should make a statement that I didn't know what I was signing and that was the way others had had their names removed. I told her to just give me the form and I would give my own reason. I listed the reason on the form I submitted to have my name removed from the petition as unemployment, but my real reason was on account of my wife who was upset because of the petition and the threats other people were getting.

"After [redacted] had suggested that I remove my name from the petition, the petition was published in the Yazoo Herald by the Citizens' Council. After the petition was published I didn't get any more work at all. [redacted]

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[redacted] wouldn't even let James Wright and me finish the work on her daughter's house. She paid us for what we had done and told us that if we wanted to finish the job we would have to remove our names from the petition. Wright took his name off the petition within a couple of days after the petition was published, but [redacted] still wouldn't let him finish the job. I didn't remove mine until about a month later.

"No acts of violence or threats of violence have been directed against me or my family about the school petition. I am also a registered voter and so far as voting is concerned, no one has ever threatened me about voting in Yazoo County.

"All of the information that has come to me about economic pressure being brought on those of us that signed the petition has come to me from an individual although I believe the Citizens' Council is back of this situation. I believe there was an article in the local paper indicating that the Citizens' Council was going to see to it that none of those who signed the petition got any work and in fact they were going to make it hard for us to buy food and clothing in Yazoo County.

"The above statement has been read to me by L. J. Frank, Jr. and it is true and correct.

"/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

"L. J. Frank, Jr., Special Agent, F.B.I. New Orleans, La.  
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., New Orleans, La."

In addition to the above, [redacted] stated that after the full page advertisement appeared in the local paper listing those who had signed the school integration petition, that this sheet of the newspaper or what appeared to be the same thing, was posted in a number of stores. He stated that he did not recall specifically which stores had put up such a placard, but he remembered that a number had done so.

Mrs. LILLIAN L. YOUNG, 513 Ridge Road Street, was interviewed on December 28, 1955, at which time she furnished the following statement:

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"Yazoo City, Miss.  
"December 28, 1955

"I, Lillian Love Young, 513 Ridge Road Street, Yazoo City, Miss. do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & Laurence J. Frank, Jr., who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MRS [redacted]

YOUNG

"I am 43 years of age, having been born August 6, 1912 in Yazoo City, Miss. I am a housewife and unemployed.

"Sometime during August, 1955, before school started, Jasper Mims and Arthur Berry came to me at my home and asked me to sign a petition which would be filed to get the city to turn the white elementary school over to the colored children. Berry told me that there were two new schools being built for the white children and the elementary school on Main Street would be available to the colored children if they could get enough names on the petition of families who had children of school age. I had one boy in the elementary school age and the school on Main Street was so much closer to my home I was interested in what Arthur Berry had told me. I was sick in bed at the time and I signed my name without reading the petition. I had asked Berry to sign for me, but he said he couldn't. Jasper Mims confirmed what Arthur Berry had told me. I didn't say anything to [redacted] my husband, about it, but several days after I signed [redacted] came home and asked me what kind of paper I had signed and I told him what I thought it was. He told me that the paper was for the white and colored to go to school together and that I had been tricked into signing the paper. [redacted] told me that Saturday when he came home that we had gotten mixed up in signing that paper and it had caused him to lose his job. He said that I should have paid more attention to what I was signing and not let those 'Negroes' mix me up.

"One Saturday a week or so later, I went to the A & P located on Main Street near Saxton & Gardner Hardware and bought some groceries. As I got ready to check out, a young boy whom I don't know told me that since I was one of those that signed the petition, the store had orders not to sell me and I couldn't buy any groceries. I didn't ask where the orders came from and the young boy didn't tell me.

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"As I recall, right after my name was published in the paper, Mr. Milton, Milton Furniture Co., Yazoo City, called me on the phone and asked me if that was my name he saw on the petition. I told him it was, but I didn't know what I was signing and he said if I wanted to take my name off, I could go see Mr. Young, Supt. of Schools. I went to see Mr. Young and he gave me an affidavit to take to [redacted] Circuit Clerk, and I took the affidavit to [redacted] and she filled it out and I signed it and my name was removed.

"At no time was I threatened by any individual or group of individuals. I have never received any threatening telephone calls and I have not been subjected to any violence or threats of violence because I signed the petition. Other than the one instance, I have bought food and other things as I needed them but have never been back to the A & P store that refused to sell me.

"I have no information that the Citizens' Council is back of my husband losing his job or the A & P refusing to sell me. I am not a registered voter and have never tried to register. Neither me nor my husband are members of the NAACP.

"The above statement has been read to me by L. J. Frank, Jr. and I read along with him. The statement is true and correct.

" /s/ Lillian L. Young

"Witnessed:

"L. J. Frank, Jr. Special Agent, F.B.I., New Orleans, La.  
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La."

Mrs. YOUNG advised that her husband is presently working in Chicago, Illinois, for some steel company and lives at [redacted]  
[redacted] Chicago Heights, Illinois.

[redacted] was contacted on December 27, 1955, at which time she advised that until recently she had been living in Toledo, Ohio, with her husband; however, she was now living at the above address in Yazoo City, Mississippi. She stated that before she discussed anything pertaining to her present or past business activities in Yazoo City, she wanted to see Attorney [redacted] for his advice.

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She subsequently advised that she had talked with her "advisor" and he told her not to get involved; and because of his advice, she did not have anything to say and did not want to make any statement.

On December 28, 1955, THOMAS WILLIAM ALLEN, 125 Manor Street, was interviewed and he furnished the following signed statement. It is to be noted that ALLEN was not one of those mentioned in the referenced article, but was present when R. M. MILTON, whom he identified as R. M. MIDDLETON, had his conversation with MIMS. His statement is as follows:

"Yazoo City, Mississippi  
"December 28, 1955

*+ C A T A L U N*  
"I, Thomas William Allen, give the following free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and Laurence J. Frank, Jr., both of whom have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am 74 years of age, having been born January 10, 1882 in Yazoo County, Mississippi. I reside at 125 Manor Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi.

"Sometime in early August, 1955 Jasper Mims and Arthur Berry, Treasurer and President, respectively, of the Yazoo City and County Branch of the NAACP, came to me at 306 Second Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi with a petition bearing the names of several Negro citizens, which petitioned the right to have Negro and White children go to the same schools in Yazoo County. The petition was already completed, and they wanted to use my home address as the return address on the envelope in which they intended to mail the petition to the Yazoo County Superintendent of Education. I was at that time Secretary of the local NAACP Chapter, but I refused to sign the petition and declined them the use of my address. I did this because I did not know all the circumstances under which the petition had been filled out, and because I had no children of school age.

"The next I heard about the petition was a few days later, when I saw it published in the Yazoo City Herald, a weekly newspaper.

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"A day or so before the paper was published, someone at Jasper Mims' house, whose identity I cannot recall, telephoned and told me that Mr. R. M. Middleton was there, and that I should come over. I went right to Jasper's house, & observed Jasper standing beside a car talking to Mr. R. M. Middleton, who was in the car. I walked up and got in the car with Mr. Middleton. The first conversation I heard was when Mr. Middleton asked Jasper Mims why he passed the petition. Jasper told him he did so because 'everybody else was signing up' and 'they had orders to do the same.' Mr. Middleton then told Jasper, 'They've got you styled as the ringleader of this thing.' Jasper told Mr. Middleton that he wasn't the President of the NAACP, and then refused to tell Middleton who the other officers were. I told Middleton that it was no secret, and that Arthur Berry was President, Jasper Mims treasurer, and that I was Secretary. Then Mr. Middleton told me he did not know that, and told Jasper that he was a fool not to tell it, because he was styled as the 'head leader.' Mr. Middleton told Jasper and I both to go to the bank and see Mr. Patty, who is on the school board and tell him that we did not want any trouble. Then Mr. Middleton drove off.

"Except as otherwise mentioned, I heard no conversation between Jasper Mims and Mr. Middleton. I never heard any mention about the Citizens Council. Then Mr. Middleton said to Jasper that 'They've got you styled as the ringleader of this thing,' I was under the impression that he referred to the NAACP as 'they.'

"I have never been threatened or intimidated by any person or group of persons. I have had no difficulty in purchasing food or any other items, and I enjoy a credit account with several local concerns in Yazoo City.

"I do not of my own knowledge know of any instance where the Citizens Council was in back of any economic pressure against Negroes. I have heard gossip among the colored people in Yazoo City that merchants had refused to sell to certain persons. I also heard that Jasper had received some threatening telephone calls. However, I do not know who made these calls, and I do not know why the merchants refused to sell to certain people, since I have had no such difficulties.

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"I do not know of any instances whereby Jasper Mims, who is my step-son, has been unable to buy the necessary items of living. His wife, [redacted] told me on Sunday, December 25, 1955 that she and Jasper had no trouble whatever in getting credit or in buying goods in Yazoo City. M155

"I have read the above statement, consisting of this and four other pages, and it is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/ Thomas William Allen

"Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, New Orleans, La.  
"L. J. Frank, Jr. " "

AT HARVEY, ILLINOIS

[redacted] Harvey,  
Illinois, when interviewed on January 3, 1956, advised that he is presently working at [redacted]  
[redacted] Harvey, Illinois. M155

[redacted] stated he opened a grocery store in Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Mississippi in May, 1954, and was doing a successful business. In July, 1955, ARTHUR BERRY and JASPER MIMS of the NAACP in Yazoo City, Mississippi, contacted him with a petition to better the public school system for the colored people in Yazoo County. [redacted] stated that he asked BERRY and MIMS if the petition was for better schools for the colored children or for integration and BERRY and MIMS told him it was for a better school system and not for integration in Yazoo County. [redacted] stated that he read the petition and it was for a better school system for the colored children in that county.

[redacted] stated that in the latter part of July, 1955, a petition for integration, which contained 52 signers, one of which was [redacted] was published in the "Yazoo Herald." [redacted] stated that he had not signed such a petition and that apparently his name had been taken from the petition given him to be signed by BERRY and MIMS, which dealt with the improving of school system for colored people in Yazoo County. [redacted] stated that he was not for integration and since the Supreme Court had rendered its recent decision concerning segregation, he would let the Supreme

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Court make all the decisions for integration, and that he was thoroughly opposed to the particular bill that was published.

He stated that he contacted MIMS and questioned him concerning the petition for integration which was published in the paper, and MIMS told him that the petition which was published was not the petition which he had sent in or which [redacted] had signed. [redacted] stated that the All White Council, which has offices in every city in Mississippi, stopped the wholesalers and jobbers from servicing his grocery store after the petition was published in the paper.

[redacted] stated that the following people in Yazoo County are, he believes, part of the All White Citizens Council:

[redacted] (PH);  
[redacted] (PH);  
[redacted] (PH), [redacted] of the  
Delta National Bank;  
[redacted] (PH), a lawyer.

[redacted] stated that the pressure was put on the jobbers and wholesalers in the middle of August, 1955, and at that time they serviced him no longer.

[redacted] stated that when he found out about the petition that had been published in the "Yazoo Herald," he had made an affidavit on August 28, 1955, withdrawing his name from the petition.

In about the first part of September, 1955, he went to the Delta National Bank to make a weekly deposit and the girl told him that [redacted] would like to see him. [redacted] stated that he went to see [redacted] who in turn called [redacted] Mr. MILLER HOLMES, Sr., who asked [redacted] if he had an account with the Delta National Bank. When [redacted] replied that he did have an account at the bank, Mr. MILLER HOLMES, Sr., told him that the Delta National Bank could no longer service his account. [redacted] advised that at that time he withdrew his account, not asking why the bank could no longer service him.

[redacted] stated that he depleted the stock in his store, sold his house, and moved to Chicago in the first part of October, 1955.

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[redacted] stated that he owns three lots and the building in which he operated his store in Yazoo County, Mississippi, and that he has heard through various means which he cannot recall, that the All White Council was not going to let anyone rent the store he owns in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

During the interview with [redacted] he advised that [redacted] another Negro who was a signer of the school petition, presently lives in Robbins, Illinois, and works at some chemical factory in Chicago, rather than in Raleigh, Illinois.

AT EAST CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

[redacted] East Chicago Heights, Illinois, was interviewed on January 3, 1956. [redacted] advised that he is presently a laborer at the [redacted] in East Chicago Heights, Illinois.

[redacted] stated that JASPER MIMS of the NAACP in Yazoo City, Mississippi, had contacted his wife with regard to signing a petition for better schools for colored children in that county, and it was published as a petition for integration in the "Yazoo Herald" in the latter part of July, 1955.

[redacted] stated in the early part of August, 1955, [redacted] of the McGraw Lumber Company, Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Mississippi, told him to have his wife draw up an affidavit withdrawing her name from the petition at the Delta National Bank.

[redacted] stated that his wife went to the Delta National Bank to have an affidavit drawn up and that they told her it would not make any difference, and that there was no use of filing the affidavit at this time.

[redacted] stated that he had been refused the sale of groceries from the A. & P. Food Store in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He stated that they had a list of the 52 signers and that when anyone of the signers attempted to purchase groceries they would refuse the sale to that particular person.

[redacted] stated in the latter part of August, 1955, [redacted] of the McGraw Lumber Company, called him in and told him that he hated to let him go after [redacted] years of service, but

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that he was going to have to fire him. [redacted] stated that at that time, since he could not get food or a job in Mississippi, he decided to come to Chicago and stay with his brother. [redacted] stated that during the weekend of December 31, 1955, he took his wife and family back to Yazoo County, Mississippi, to their home, and that he had talked to [redacted] and [redacted] had told him that the council was going to have a meeting on January 10, 1956, to try to correct or disband the council and get the people that had left the area to come back and accept their old positions in the community.

[redacted] stated that he believes the following are members of the All White Citizens Council in Yazoo County:

[redacted]  
FNU [redacted] (PH), a lawyer;  
FNU [redacted] (PH) of Hester Auto Parts.

[redacted] further stated that when either a man or his wife sign a petition, they were both considered as signers of the petition.

During the above interviews with [redacted] and [redacted] both advised that they had not been threatened with acts of violence and knew of no such threats in regard to the other individuals whose names were reflected on the integration petition mentioned above and who ultimately left Yazoo County, Mississippi.

#### IV. INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF EXERTING PRESSURE

[redacted] who owns a grocery store in an all-Negro section of Yazoo City, advised on January 4, 1956, that he had operated a grocery store in that section since June 1955. At first he had rented a small store, the building in which the store was located being owned by JASPER MIMS. [redacted] advised that he himself was a member of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City and had attended three meetings of this organization. He said that after the newspaper had published the names of the Negroes who had signed the school integration petition, one of whom was JASPER MIMS, two of [redacted] friends who are also members of the Citizens' Council were talking to him and mentioned the fact that he was renting from one of the petition signers. He said his friends suggested that he try to purchase the store building from him and if he was unable

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to buy the building, that they thought he ought to try to find another location as they felt nothing should be done to help JASPER MIMS. [redacted] stated that no threats or anything similar to threats were made to him and that on his own initiative he went to JASPER MIMS and they entered into negotiations for [redacted] to buy the store building. He said that MIMS was very anxious to sell him the building and he would have purchased the same but they could not agree on the purchase price. [redacted] admitted that he then told MIMS he was going to move to another location. When MIMS asked him why, [redacted] admitted that he told MIMS that the Citizens' Council was making him move. [redacted] denied that the Citizens' Council was making him move and stated that he gave this answer to MIMS because he had to tell him something. [redacted] stated, however, that he did not immediately leave the store building but continued to rent from MIMS until January 2, 1956, at which time he moved to a location about two blocks distant. [redacted] went on to state that he had many friends among the Negroes in that community and that the Negroes had been good to him. He said, however, that from his association with the Negroes in that community, the great majority did not want integration with the white people in the schools or in any other way and there were only a very few who did want to integrate. He stated that many of the Negroes who had signed the integration petition had told him that they did not know what they were signing as they had been misled by JASPER MIMS and ARTHUR BERRY into believing the petition was merely for better schools for Negroes and that when they learned that the petition was for integration of the Negro and white school children, they had their names removed from the petition.

[redacted] stated that he did not desire to furnish the names of his two friends who had advised him with regard to this matter without first contacting them and determining whether they were willing for their names to be given. [redacted] also declined to furnish a signed statement, stating that he saw no reason for giving such a statement.

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[redacted] Delta  
National Bank, Yazoo City, Mississippi, when interviewed on January 4, 1956 advised he is presently the [redacted] of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City. He is also a former [redacted] of the Chamber of Commerce of Yazoo City and is presently [redacted] of the [redacted] Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. [redacted] advised that [redacted] [redacted] one of the signers of the school integration petition had carried an account in the Delta National Bank. Shortly after [redacted] name was published in the newspaper as having signed the integration petition, he was in the Delta National Bank transacting business. [redacted] [redacted] stated that the bank positively did not send for [redacted] and tell him to draw his money out of the bank but that [redacted] was told, when he had voluntarily appeared at the bank on business, that the bank preferred that he take his business elsewhere. [redacted] stated that this was all that was said and that no demand was made on [redacted] nor were any threats made. He said that [redacted] did not ask the reason for the bank's action apparently understanding why the bank preferred not to do business with him. [redacted] stated that it was sometime later when [redacted] closed his account at the Delta National Bank. [redacted] stated that this action was taken on individual initiative and that the matter did not come up in the Citizens' Council nor was any recommendation or suggestion made by the Citizens' Council that this action be taken. [redacted] stated that the bank just did not desire to do business with an individual whom they considered was acting contrary to the best interest of the community. Further interview with [redacted] will be set out later in this report.

[redacted] in the Hendrix Lumber Company, Yazoo City, when interviewed on January 4, 1956, advised that it was not his wife, but his sister-in-law, [redacted] who had fired the negro plumbers, WRIGHT and [redacted] while they were working on fixtures at her home. [redacted] stated that he had talked to his sister-in-law and she had frankly stated that when it became known to her through publication in the newspaper that WRIGHT and [redacted] had signed a school integration petition,

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she told them she did not want them working for her. [redacted]  
[redacted] stated that he did not even know whether his [redacted]  
sister-in-law was a member of the Citizens' Council. [redacted]  
[redacted] stated that he himself was not a member just be-  
cause he had never taken the time and trouble to join,  
although he was in agreement with the aims and purposes  
of the Citizens' Council. He said that he knew from  
talking to his sister-in-law that she acted strictly on  
her own initiative and that no one from the Citizens'  
Council had told her what to do. [redacted] stated that he  
himself had refused to sell material to JASPER MIMS, another  
signer of the school integration petition. He stated he had  
certainly done this on his own initiative as he had never  
been to a meeting of the Citizens' Council and no one had  
told him what he should do or made any suggestions or  
recommendations regarding any such action. [redacted] said he  
did not desire to have any dealings with any of the indi-  
viduals who signed the integration petition because the  
sentiment of the overwhelming majority of citizens in Yazoo  
City was contrary to the purposes of these petition signers  
and their action was therefore regarded as detrimental to  
the best interest of the community. [redacted] declined  
to furnish a signed statement stating he saw no reason for  
doing so.

Mr. R. M. MIDDLETON, furniture store owner, Yazoo  
City, Mississippi, who is an elderly man, advised when inter-  
viewed on January 4, 1956 that he was a member of the Citi-  
zens' Council of Yazoo City and had known JASPER MIMS all  
of his life. MIDDLETON claimed that he had more influence  
with the negroes in Yazoo City than any other individual,  
and when he heard that JASPER MIMS was in trouble because  
of having signed an integration petition, he drove to JAS-  
PER MIMS' house with the idea of counseling with him. He  
said he asked JASPER MIMS if he was in trouble as he had  
heard he was about to be run out of town for signing the  
integration petition. MIMS told him he was not in trouble  
and that no one had threatened him in any way. MIDDLETON  
said he told MIMS that if he needed any help in getting his  
cotton ginned or his cotton picked for MIMS to let MIDDLETON  
know and MIDDLETON would see that MIMS was able to get this  
work done. MIDDLETON stated that he did not mention the  
Citizens' Council or anything with reference to economic

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pressure to MIMS. He did say that he told MIMS he had heard that MIMS and ARTHUR BERRY were the ring leaders of the NAACP in Yazoo City. He said that MIMS however did not admit to being an official of the NAACP. MIDDLETON claimed that his only purpose in going to MIMS was to try and assist him and that he in no way threatened or attempted to frighten MIMS. He said he absolutely did not tell MIMS that the Citizens' Council had made any recommendation to bring economic pressure against the signers of the petition. MIDDLETON further stated that his actions in going to MIMS was in no way connected with any person or organization and no one had suggested that he talk to MIMS. He said he merely thought he could help alleviate a tense situation as he believed he had the confidence of the negroes in the community. MIDDLETON stated that many of the negroes who had signed the petition had come to him after their names had been published in the paper and told him that MIMS and ARTHUR BERRY had asked them to sign the petition claiming that it was a petition for better schools and that they had not read the petition and did not know that it was a petition asking for the integration of the white and colored schools. MIDDLETON stated that the overwhelming majority of negroes in Yazoo City were against the integration of schools. Mr. MIDDLETON declined to furnish a signed statement saying that he did not mind discussing this matter but did not care to sign a statement.

V. OFFICERS OF CITIZENS' COUNCIL OF YAZOO CITY

The following individuals have been identified as officers of the Yazoo City Citizens' Council as obtained on January 3, 1956 from interview with [redacted] of the Bank of Yazoo, Yazoo City, Mississippi, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City:

Name

[redacted]

Co-chairman

Occupation

[redacted] Delta  
National Bank, Yazoo  
City.

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[redacted] Co-chairman

McGraw-Curran Lumber  
Company, Yazoo City

[redacted] Secretary-  
Treasurer

[redacted] Mississippi  
Chemical Company, Yazoo  
City.

The members of the Steering Committee of the  
Citizens' Council of Yazoo City were identified as follows:

[redacted] Bank of  
Yazoo City, Yazoo  
City, Mississippi.

Attorney

Physician

Taylor & Roberts,  
Purina dealer.

Planter - John Deere  
Implement dealer.

Planter

Sinclair Oil distrib-  
utor.

Attorney

Cotton business

Planter

McGraw-Curran Lumber  
Company.

County Attorney

Merchant.

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#### VI. STATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

According to articles appearing in the "Yazoo City Herald", heretofore referred to, the stated aims of the Yazoo City Citizens' Council are to preserve and maintain the peace and tranquillity of the community and are dedicated to maintain segregation of the races while preserving the peace and harmony of the people and the traditions of the South.

In an article written by BEN PRICE in the "Washington Post and Times Herald" on Sunday, November 21, 1954, it was stated that the plan for the Councils was drawn from the book, BLACK MONDAY, written by Circuit Judge TOM P. BRADY of Brookhaven, Mississippi, in which the theory of economic pressure was advanced. This article stated that "a new type of anti-Negro vigilante movement--using boycotts instead of bullwhips--has arisen in at least one state in the South." This article referred to the Citizens' Councils in Mississippi which at that time reportedly had organized in 22 of Mississippi's 82 counties and it indicated that their sole purpose was to apply economic pressure to "trouble-makers", who would upset the "Southern way of life." This article described a "trouble-maker" as anyone who advocates compliance with the Supreme Court decision against racial segregation.

An article appeared in "The Citizens' Council" issue of October 1955, which was identified as the "official paper of the Citizens' Councils; this article was under the caption "Mississippi Citizens' Councils Are Protecting Both Races," and was written by THOMAS R. WARING, <sup>S.C.</sup> Editor of "The News and Courier", Charleston, South Carolina. The editor's note preceding this article stated that this was one of a series of three articles and are the only articles appearing today by a writer who has studied the Citizens' Council movement sufficiently to speak with authority. This article stated that the Citizens' Council was to preserve separation of the races against assaults from the NAACP, in alliance with the federal government and at the same time, is dedicated to protect the rank and file of Negroes from the wrath of ruffian white people who may resort to violence. The article stated "that economic pressure," a method of combating Negro pressure from the

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North, is not organized by the Councils. Individuals who belong to the Councils may have persuaded Negroes to remove their names from school integration petitions by various means short of violence. These means could include firing employee, or refusing to renew leases for sharecroppers who have followed the NAACP line."

"If such tactics have been used--and there seems little doubt that they have--they were adopted on individual initiative and not as a group action."

This article said that spokesmen for the Councils say that pressures would have been exerted whether or not the Councils existed and they insist that the Councils have served to channel public feeling away from violence and toward an orderly handling of race relations in a state where whites and Negroes are evenly divided. The article stated "especially do they deny NAACP charges that the Councils have created an atmosphere that incites murder and lynching. In fact, they cite instances where they have prevented bloodshed."

Under the name of the newspaper "The Citizens' Council" the following is stated: "Dedicated to the maintenance of peace, good order and domestic tranquillity in our community and in our State and to the preservation of our States' Rights."

VII. INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIALS OF CITIZENS' COUNCIL OF YAZOO CITY

[redacted] Bank of Yazoo City, Yazoo City, Mississippi, when interviewed on January 3, 1956, advised that he was a member of the Steering Committee of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, Mississippi. [redacted] said the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City organized in September 1954 at a public meeting of interested citizens. Sixteen of the outstanding citizens of Yazoo City were selected as a Steering Committee which were empowered to act or speak for the Council. Subsequently, a second public meeting was held and a Constitution was adopted stating the purpose of the organization to be:

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"The Yazoo City Citizens' Council is dedicated to the maintenance of the segregation of the races to the end that peace, good order, the orderly processes of the law and domestic tranquillity may be preserved in our city and in our state."

[redacted] advised that the Constitution provided for additional members of the Steering Committee to be elected annually so that no man or clique might be able to control the organization.

[redacted] said that when the Council was organized, its aim was the preservation of peaceful relations between white and colored citizens in Yazoo City which was threatened by: (1) Registration in increasing numbers by generally unqualified colored citizens, and, (2) The threat of integrated public schools presented by the federal Supreme Court decision. He said that action was being demanded by popular sentiment often emotionally and heatedly expressed, and the Citizens' Council was therefore organized to prevent violence and bloodshed on the part of those "hotheads" in the community who might have resorted to such action. [redacted] stated it was the purpose of the Council to get all such "hotheads" as members of the Council so that they could be guided and directed by the responsible citizens in the community and in order that there might be no resort to force and violence or any illegal acts. As a result, [redacted] stated that there has been not one single act of violence in Yazoo City by the members of the races since the organization of the Citizens' Council.

With reference to economic sanctions or pressure, [redacted] stated that the Citizens Council has never attempted to instigate or direct any economic pressure against any individual or group in Yazoo City. He did point out that the Citizens' Council made it a point to inform all of their 600 members in Yazoo City of the identity of those individuals who were acting in a manner which they considered detrimental to the best interest of the community. In this connection, he pointed out that after the local newspaper in Yazoo City had published the names

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of the individuals who had signed a school integration petition in August 1955, members of the Steering Committee subsequently received numerous telephone calls asking if certain individuals had signed the petition and the identities of the individuals whose names had been published. He said that in order that no colored individual might be unjustly accused of having signed the petition and in order to keep the members of the Citizens' Council informed of what was going on in the community, the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City would have the names and addresses of the integration petition signers published and distributed to members of the Citizens' Council in Yazoo City. He stated that no recommendation or suggestion was made in connection with this publication and distribution of the integration petition signers, as it was not necessary. He pointed out that whenever an individual publicly showed himself to be an enemy of the society in which he lived; the other members of the community would ostracize that individual spontaneously and without direction. [redacted]

[redacted] pointed out that the policy of the Citizens' Council was to protect all individuals without regard to race or color, who desired to live in harmony in a segregated society where there was a peaceful co-existence of the races.

[redacted] stated that the Citizens' Council did not have as its aim any organized boycott or other such means of economic pressure. He stated that no resolution had ever been introduced in the Citizens' Council to take any action against any individual and that no individual case had ever been taken up either in a full meeting of the Citizens' Council or by the Steering Committee. He advised that the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City was not incorporated and there had been only three meetings since the Council was organized. It was the original intention to have only one annual meeting. He stated that the dues of the members were \$5.00, of which \$1.00 was forwarded to the State Headquarters for each member. He further stated that the local Citizens' Council at Yazoo City was not bound by any action of the State group; although, they were affiliated with the State group. He pointed out that the main objective of the Citizens' Council was to maintain segregation by all legal means. He said

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that undoubtedly they had possibly made mistakes and that possibly some injustices had taken place but that he believes the action taken by the Citizens' Council in publishing the names of the petition signers was for the best interest of the community. [redacted] said that he knew that there had been individual members of the Citizens' Council who had brought economic pressure to bear on the petition signers, but that such action had been taken upon the individual members own initiative and without any suggestion or recommendation on the part of either the Citizens' Council or the Steering Committee. [redacted] was of the opinion that the few injustices which might have taken place were far better than the possible bloodshed and violence which undoubtedly was prevented by the action of the Citizens' Council. He stated that their organization continually stressed the fact that all problems would be discussed and brought up before the Citizens' Council and that any force and violence or any threats of any nature should not be made as they were very anxious that no incident happened such as the "Till Case" in Northern Mississippi.

[redacted] stated that whenever the time came that the Citizens' Council resorted to force and violence or any illegal acts or strayed away from the stated aims and purposes of the organization, then, he would immediately resign from the Citizens' Council.

[redacted]  
Mississippi Chemical Company, Yazoo City, Mississippi, when interviewed on January 4, 1956, advised that he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City. [redacted] furnished a copy of the Constitution and by-laws of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, which is set out as follows:

"I NAME

"II OBJECT

The Yazoo City Citizens' Council is dedicated to the maintenance of segregation of the races to the end that peace, good order, the orderly processes of the law and domestic tranquility may be preserved in our community and in our State.

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"III MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this Council shall consist of white male citizens.

"IV OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Steering Committee.

(1) The President, Vice-President, Secretary and the Treasurer shall hold their office for one year from each October first, or until successors have been chosen.

(2) The Steering Committee shall consist of sixteen men, including the officers above named. Eight members of the Steering Committee shall be elected annually. At the first meeting of the Steering Committee following adoption of this constitution, sixteen tickets shall be placed in a hat, eight marked one year and eight marked two years. One ticket shall be drawn for each present member of the committee; those for whom a ticket marked "1" is drawn shall serve to October 1, 1955, or until successors elected and those for whom a ticket marked "2" is drawn shall serve to October 1, 1956, or until their successors are elected.

"V DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

(1) The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization, call special meetings of the membership, and serve as chairman of the Steering Committee, and ex-officio member of all committees.

(2) The Vice-President shall serve as president in his absence.

(3) The Secretary shall keep the records. He shall notify the membership of meetings.

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(4) The Treasurer shall collect and receive the funds of the organization, and disburse them on approval of the President. All disbursements shall be made by check. The Treasurer shall submit an annual report to the membership. The fiscal year shall end on August 31st.

(5) The Steering Committee shall determine and control the policies and conduct the affairs of the organization.

(6) No officer or member of the Steering Committee shall be eligible to succeed himself.

#### "VI EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Members may be expelled for cause, upon recommendation of the Steering Committee, and approval of a majority of the membership present at any regular or called meeting.

#### "VII MEETINGS

(1) The annual meeting shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of September of each year, for the purpose of electing members of the Steering Committee and any other business.

(2) The President or any member of the Steering Committee may call a special meeting of the membership at any time they may deem it necessary.

#### "VIII ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers, other than members of the Steering Committee, shall be elected by the Steering Committee, from its membership at the first regular meeting of the Steering Committee to be held October 1st each year and if that day be Sunday or a secular holiday, the next succeeding day.

(1) On or before July 1, each year, the president shall appoint a nominating committee of six reputable

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citizens not members of the Steering Committee who shall nominate eight eligible men to be presented as candidates for membership on the Steering Committee at the next annual meeting.

(2) At said annual meeting any additional nominations shall be received from the floor. Thereupon each member at the meeting shall have eight votes, no one to cast more than one vote for any candidate. The eight members having the highest number of votes shall be declared elected members of the Steering Committee.

#### "IX AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended or changed by a majority vote of the membership at an annual or special meeting.

#### BY-LAWS

1. Meetings shall be called by the President or any member of the Steering Committee to be held at such place and time as they may designate.
2. The annual dues shall be from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per year, depending upon one's own idea of his ability to pay.
3. The following committees will be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee

A- Political and Elections Committee

B- Information and Education Committee

C- Membership and Finance Committee

D- Legal Advisory Committee

The number of members on each committee shall be at the discretion of the president.

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4. Membership in the organization shall be by application to the Secretary, subject to approval of the Steering Committee.
5. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote at any annual or called meeting."

\* \* \* \* \*

[redacted] stated that of course the purpose of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City was to maintain segregation by all legal means. He said the aim of the Council was to protect both white and colored races and prevent violence and bloodshed. [redacted] said that he was aware of the fact that there had been some threatening telephone calls made to the signers of the integration petition and that he had heard that possibly some of the negroes who had signed the petition had received threatening letters. He stated that the Citizens' Council was absolutely against any such illegal acts and that they had done all possible to try and find out who had made these telephone calls or sent any such threatening letters. Their efforts had met with negative results and [redacted] was of the opinion that such actions were by irresponsible teen-age kids. He stated that if ever the Citizens' Council resorted to any such means or any type of illegal actions, he would be the first to get out of the organization. [redacted] went on to state that the only action which had been taken by the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City was to publicize and distribute among its members the names of those negroes who had signed the school integration petition and that this was done only after a news article had appeared in the local paper giving these names and addresses of the petition signers. He said that this action was taken after they had received numerous requests from individuals to know the identity of the petition signers, although their identity had already been revealed in the newspaper.

He stated that the Citizens' Council or the Steering Committee had never made any recommendation or suggestion as to any action which its members should take with reference to the signers of the integration petition and further, that any action which any individual member took was on their own initiative. [redacted] stated that the

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Constitution and By-Laws of the Yazoo City Citizens' Council were drawn up by its own members without reference to any State Constitution and By-Laws of the State Association of Citizens' Council. He said their organization was not patterned after the state or any other Citizens' Council organization. He advised that their membership dues was \$5.00 a member, \$1.00 of which was forwarded to the State Headquarters.

[redacted] was of the opinion that the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City had been of great public service to that community in preventing any bloodshed and violence which he believed would undoubtedly have taken place had not the responsible citizens of the community organized to prevent so-called "riffraff and hotheads", who are in every community, from organizing and taking things into their own hands. He said it was the purpose of the Citizens' Council to direct and control so as to prevent any illegal action of force and violence from taking place.

[redacted] advised on January 3, 1956 that he is the [redacted] in Yazoo City and that he was the [redacted] of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City. He further stated that he was one of the organizers of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, after he, along with two others, had attended a Citizens' Council meeting at Holly Bluff, Mississippi in 1954. He stated that he and the other two men wanted to find out how to handle the segregation problem with credit to the community and without force and violence, and to serve the best interests of both the negroes and whites in the community. As a result of the Holly Bluff, Mississippi meeting, he and his two companions returned to Yazoo City and sought to interest other citizens in the community in organizing a Citizens' Council which was done in September 1954. [redacted] stated that the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City has never sanctioned economic pressure against any individual or group of individuals although he realized that some individual members of the Citizens' Council had brought economic pressure to bear against the school integration petition signers after their names had been published in the local newspaper,

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and after the Citizens' Council had published and distributed their names to the members of the Citizens' Council.

[redacted] further stated that he understood that threatening telephone calls as well as letters of an anonymous nature had been made and written to the petition signers. He stated, however, that the Citizens' Council denounced such action and had attempted without success to find out who was responsible for these telephone calls and letter writing. He stated that one of the main objectives of the Citizens' Council was to stay within legal means in maintaining segregation and that they wanted to be fair and just to the negroes on an equal but separate basis. He advised that there had never been any recommendation or suggestion by either the Citizens' Council or the Steering Committee to take any action against any individual or group of individuals. He pointed out that this was not necessary as naturally members of the community would not desire to have business dealings with anyone whom they considered their enemy.

[redacted] Delta National Bank, Yazoo City, Mississippi, was interviewed on January 4, 1956. He advised that he was formerly [redacted] [redacted] of the Chamber of Commerce in Yazoo City and he is presently [redacted] of the [redacted] Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Yazoo City. He is also Co-Chairman of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City. He pointed out that the best people in the community belong to the Citizens' Council and that they were most seriously concerned with how to handle the problem which had been thrust upon them by the Supreme Court's decision, with reference to integrating the schools. First and foremost, he stated that the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City was dedicated to the preservation of segregation by all legal means; further, that the Council was dedicated to the prevention of force and violence in accomplishing this purpose. He stated that the Citizens' Council does not advocate use of threats in any form. He further stated that the Council had never advocated or recommended economic pressure against any individual or group of individuals. He stated that much thought had been given before publicizing the names of the integration petition signers after such names had been revealed in the newspaper; that it was felt that one of the

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purposes of the Citizens' Council was to keep its members informed of anything effecting segregation; that, therefore, the Council had the names and addresses of the petition signers published and distributed to all of the Citizens' Council members. No recommendation or suggestion was made by either the Council or the Steering Committee. Thereafter, the individual members of the Council acted on their own initiative in deciding to refrain from any business transaction with those who were "on the other side." [redacted]

[redacted] stated that no separate case or group case of the petition signers was ever taken up and discussed by the Citizens' Council or the Steering Committee with any recommendation as to any action which should be taken. He stated that the best citizens of the community, who belonged to the Council, were doing everything they possibly could to prevent tension and violence. He said they would welcome any suggestion as to any other way they might handle this problem. He stated that they do not want agitators in their community and that the negro and white races were getting along fine before agitators started on this integration petition. [redacted] stated that a number of the negroes who had signed the petition had subsequently come to see him and wanted their names taken off the petition stating that they were misled when they signed the petition, as they thought all they were signing was a petition for better schools and did not realize that the petition was for integrating the white and colored schools.

[redacted] went on to state that the greatest factor of the Citizens' Council was the psychological factor, that the Citizens' Council was being given credit for a great many things it had not done. Further, the NAACP apparently thought the Citizens' Council was a very powerful organization when in fact, there had only been three meetings in the last year and a half, other than meetings of the Steering Committee and that the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City had acted only once in publishing the names of the integration petition signers; that public opinion had done the rest and that public opinion was solidly behind the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City.

[redacted] pointed out that there were two factions among the negroes in Yazoo City, and that these factions had existed prior to the organization of the Citizens' Council. He stated there was friction among these two factions and that one of the factions had always wanted to participate with the white people when requested to do so in civic functions; whereas, the other faction wanted nothing whatsoever to do with the white citizens. [redacted] stated that the signers of the integration petition were not representative of the best element of the negroes in Yazoo City.

[redacted] went on to point out that he noticed in one of the articles in the New York paper that some Jewish organization had requested the Department of Justice to investigate the Citizens' Council in Mississippi, indicating the belief that the Citizens' Council was anti-Semitic. [redacted] stated that nothing further could be from the truth, that the Steering Committee of Yazoo City was made up of himself, who is a Protestant as a Co-Chairman, and that the other Co-Chairman was [redacted] who was a [redacted] also there were two Jews on the Steering Committee. He stated that they were all working in harmony for the best interest of the community.

[redacted] Attorney, Yazoo City, Mississippi, when interviewed on January 4, 1956 advised that he was a member of the Steering Committee of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, and that he was also a [redacted] of the Delta National Bank, Yazoo City. He mentioned that he was a [redacted] [redacted] and had received the [redacted] award for work he had accomplished on [redacted] Staff.

[redacted] advised that he had helped organize the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City because the citizens of the community were determined to maintain segregation by all legal means, and therefore to prevent bloodshed on the part of certain irresponsible individuals in the community, it was thought that the best means of preventing force and violence was to organize the best citizens in the community to guide and direct the activities

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of the community in maintaining segregation. He further stated that one of the purposes of the Citizens' Council was to let the public know the identity of the agitators in the community. This was accomplished by publishing the names and addresses of the school integration petition signers after the newspaper had published an article giving the names of the signers of the petition. He stated that the Citizens' Council had made no recommendation or suggestion to its membership with reference to any action to be taken with regard to the petition signers; that it was only natural for persons not to want to have business dealings with individuals whom they considered detrimental to the community interest. He vehemently denied that the Citizens' Council as an organization was responsible for any threatening telephone calls or threatening letters which might have been sent to the petition signers. He stated that the Council did not sanction or induce any such illegal activity, as one of their purposes was to prevent any illegal activity. He stated that the Steering Committee had unsuccessfully tried to determine who had made any threatening telephone calls or written any threatening letters to the petition signers. [redacted] said that if the Citizens' Council ever degenerated into an organization advocating force and violence or illegal means to accomplish its purposes, he, for one, would have no part with it. He stated that the best citizens of the community, who had formed the Citizens' Council, were conscientiously doing what they thought and believed to be of the best interest for the community and if there was any better way to accomplish their purpose of maintaining segregation, they wanted to know about it.

[redacted] exhibited what purported to be a bill rendered by ARTHUR BERRY, an official of the NAACP at Yazoo City, to the NAACP in New York City, for expenses incurred when distributing the school integration petition. He would not state how he was able to obtain this bill but did claim that it came from the headquarters of the NAACP, Yazoo City.

[redacted] stated that the Steering Committee was very anxious to see that no injustice was done to any negro and that a number of the negroes who had signed the

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integration petition had requested that their names be taken off of the petition claiming that they did not know what they were signing as it had been misrepresented to them as a petition for better schools for the negroes.

[redacted] stated that even though the Citizens' Council was not responsible for the individual action of its members, some of whom undoubtedly had brought economic pressure against the signers of the petition, yet, the Citizens' Council felt that it was their responsibility to see that injustices were not done and it therefore had been proposed and would undoubtedly be recommended on the part of the Citizens' Council that none of its members bring any economic pressure to bear upon those misguided and misinformed negroes who had innocently and in ignorance signed the school integration petition.

[redacted] stated that it had been proposed before the Citizens' Council that the names of these innocent and misguided negroes be published in the newspaper for the information of the public, with the recommendation of the Citizens' Council against any such pressure being brought to bear against them. It was the opinion of [redacted] that members of the community would favorably react to the recommendation of the Steering Committee of the Citizens' Council.

#### VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

On December 27, 1955, [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that [redacted] was presently living at [redacted] Harvey, Illinois.

On December 27, 1955 [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that CHARLES RYAN was presently living at 1509 West 21st Street, Gary, Indiana. She and her husband, [redacted] advised that they had no information as to the present whereabouts of [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that JAMES WRIGHT was presently at 21375 Mitchell-dale, Ferndale 20, Michigan.

Y/200 CITY MVA  
On December 27, 28, 1955 [redacted]  
[redacted] advised that she was the former wife of [redacted] and claimed that the last information she had as

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to his whereabouts was Raleigh, Illinois. She volunteered that she did not know why he left Yazoo City, but claimed that after he lost his job, he left without telling her anything.

[redacted] and [redacted]  
[redacted] advised on December 28,  
1955 that they had no information as to the present where-  
abouts of [redacted]

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NO 105-492/dfs

ADMINISTRATIVE

The interviews of all officers and members of the Steering Committee of the Citizens' Council of Yazoo City as well as the interviews of those individuals accused of exerting economic pressure was conducted by Special Agents LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR. and ZACK J. VANLANDINGHAM.

Investigation at Harvey, Illinois and East Chicago Heights, Illinois was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] as reflected in Chicago air-tel to the Bureau with copies to Memphis, New Orleans and Springfield, dated January 4, 1956.

Each officer and member of the Steering Committee interviewed in this investigation stated that they wanted to cooperate fully and furnish all information in their possession as they had nothing to hide, but each stated that they would not submit a signed statement at this time for personal reasons.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

Will follow and report the activities of the Citizens' Councils of Mississippi in efforts to develop information for the purpose of determining whether these Councils come within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

REFERENCES

Report of SA (A) LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., New Orleans, December 28, 1955.

New Orleans air-tel to Bureau, December 28, 1955.

Bureau letter to Assistant Attorney General W. F. TOMPKINS, cc Memphis and New Orleans, December 16, 1955.

Bureau air-tel to New Orleans, cc Memphis, December 29, 1955.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

F B I

Date: January 4, 1956

Transmit the following message via

Airtel

Air Mail

*(Priority or Method of Mailing)*

~~From SAC, Indianapolis (105-637)~~

To: Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS - X

Re NO airtel 12/28/55.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

DATE 4/17/51 BY 267 NLS  
919421 EPLK

CHARLIE RYAN, Gary, Indiana, furnished names of additional residents of Yazoo City, Mississippi, who had been subjected to economic pressure by "Peoples Committee of Yazoo City."

1. [REDACTED] (Ph), cafe owner, Yazoo City, forced to close out business
2. [REDACTED] LNU, operator of grocery store and proprietor of sand and gravel business, Yazoo City. [REDACTED] and wife, co-owners of grocery store, forced to discontinue business.
3. [REDACTED] Yazoo City, farmer, forced to sell store to white tenant because tenant informed that he could no longer pay him rent because of desegregation incident.
4. [REDACTED] U.S. Post Office, Yazoo City, whose wife signed desegregation petition, dismissed from position, subsequently reinstated.

NO handle.

RECORDED - 121 BLAYLOCK  
105-34

16 JAN 1956

3-Bureau

2-New Orleans (105-492)

1-Memphis (105-121)

1-Indianapolis, 2(105-637)

GTR:sjr

(7)

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

A F C  
1 [redacted]  
JANUARY 10, 1956

AIRTEL

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

RECORDED - 121

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI,  
IS-X. Reference Indianapolis airtel 1-4-56. Indianapolis is  
instructed to furnish complete results of interview with  
Charles Ryan. Reference New Orleans airtel 1-6-56. New Orleans  
instructed to interview individuals mentioned in Indianapolis  
airtel 1-4-56.

Reference Springfield airtel 1-6-56 and Chicago airtel  
1-6-56 in which New Orleans was advised [redacted] could not be  
located in Raleigh, Illinois, or Robbins, Illinois. New Orleans  
instructed to make additional inquiries in Yazoo City, Mississippi,  
for purpose of determining present whereabouts of Covington. Lead  
should be set out for appropriate office to interview Covington.

Reference Chicago airtel 1-4-56. Chicago instructed to  
obtain signed statements from [redacted] and [redacted]

This matter should be given prompt attention and the  
results expeditiously furnished.

HOOVER

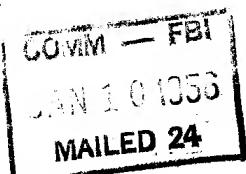
BUFILE 105-34237

2cc - Chicago (100-31619)  
2cc - Indianapolis (105-637)  
1cc - Memphis (For Information) (105-121)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/10/01 BY 1724 M/S SP/LM

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Hoffman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:bas  
(9)



5 JAN 17 1956

OK

WCI

F B I

40

Date: 1-6-56

b6  
b7CTransmit the following message via AIRTELAIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, SPRINGFIELD (105-422)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/17/01 BY SP-60-247MS

915421

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGrath \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Wickerowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BAUMGARDNER  
EPILH  
DPL

Re New Orleans airtel to Director dated 12-28-55.

On 1-5-56 [redacted] postmistress, Raleigh, Illinois, advised that [redacted] has neither resided nor received mail at Raleigh, Illinois. She further advised there are no Negro families served by the Raleigh Post Office.

It is to be noted that Raleigh, Illinois is a village of approximately 250 population with one rural carrier.

A check of voter registrations, tax records and records of Saline County Credit Bureau, Harrisburg, Illinois, failed to disclose information concerning [redacted]

RUC.

3-Director  
1-New Orleans (105-492) (AM)  
1-Memphis (105-121) (AM)  
1-SI 105-422  
EWI:emr  
(6)

WILLIAMS

RECORDED - 121 / 05-122-150

Mr. Belmont

50 JAN 17 1956

Approved: W.H.W. Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b6  
b7C

FD-36 Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Tolson
Miss Gandy

AIR TEL

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, NEW ORLEANS

January 6, 1956

DIRECTOR

AIR MAIL

JW

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Re Indianapolis airtel January 4, 1956, listing four individuals against whom economic pressure was allegedly exerted at Yazoo City, Mississippi. Name of [redacted] is the only one of the four which appears on the list of school integration petition signers.

Report presently being submitted by New Orleans Division will reflect interview with seven individuals against whom economic pressure was exerted. Fifty-three names appear on the school integration petition. New Orleans Division has confined interviews of individuals against whom economic pressure exerted to those whose names appeared in New York Post article as forwarded by Bureau memorandum dated December 16, 1955. Original instructions in this memo was to interview those persons named in the New York Post article as being subjected to economic pressure.

*Serial No. 11046*  
 Bureau advice requested as to whether interviews should be conducted with the four additional individuals listed in referenced Indianapolis airtel.

CHILES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/1/01 BY 6307NLS/EP

END

③ - Bureau (105-34237) (AIR MAIL) ORDERED 121  
 1 - Memphis (105-121) (AIR MAIL)  
 1 - Indianapolis (105-637) (AIR MAIL)  
 1 - New Orleans (105-492)

ZJVL:bs

Mr. Belmont

(6)

50 JAN 17 1956

105-34237-121

23 JAN 9 1956

Approved: me  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New Orleans

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: 1/6/56

Re Bureau memo to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III dated December 30, 1955, regarding letter sent to the Department by L. G. PATTERSON, W. Jackson, Mississippi.

There is enclosed a blank memorandum reflecting the interview of L. G. PATTERSON on January 3, 1956, by SA's LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., and ZACK J. VAN LANDINGHAM. No further investigation will be made with reference to Mr. PATTERSON's allegation UACB.

LX-107 42 ENCL 3D  
 2 - Bureau (105-34237) (EX-107-5) (REGISTERED)  
 1 - New Orleans (105-492)

ZJVL:bs  
 (3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 11/10/01 BY SP/MS

X918421 130701M EXP FEB 10

INDEXED-42

RECORDED-42

105-34237-155  
 2 JAN 9 1956

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

105-34237-155  
 2 JAN 9 1956

EX-107

INT SPC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/01 BY 67NLSZPLH

January 6, 1956

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

On December 3, 1955, L. G. Patterson, distributor of the Hol-Dem Electric Fencer Company, Old 80 E. Highway, Post Office Box 3274, W. Jackson, Mississippi, directed a letter to the United States Department of Justice requesting to be informed if there was any action which could be taken to prevent the white Citizens' Councils in Mississippi from applying economic pressure to ruin an individual's business. In the letter Mr. Patterson stated that all senators, representatives, and congressmen from Mississippi were members of the Citizens' Councils.

Mr. L. G. Patterson, a white man, was interviewed on January 3, 1956, at which time he advised he was born and reared in the state of Illinois and moved to Mississippi in 1927 after going into bankruptcy in the hardware business in Illinois. Mr. Patterson stated that he had written several letters to the Attorney General of the United States with reference to the segregation issue as well as informing him on the activities of the Citizens' Councils of Mississippi and that he had also written letters to newspapers in Jackson, Mississippi, under an assumed name on these same subjects which letters had been published. Patterson said that he knew that Negroes were not poisonous as he had lived with them and gone to school with them all of his early days in Illinois. He said that all of the information he had regarding Citizens' Councils bringing economic pressure to ruin individual's businesses had been obtained by him from reading newspapers. He cited the situation at Yazoo City, Mississippi, which he had read about in the newspapers as an example of the Citizens' Council bringing economic pressure against Negroes who had signed a school integration petition. Mr. Patterson said he was unable to give the names of anyone who had been put in fear of their lives for voicing their opinion; however, he said that

ENCLOSURE

everyone knows that at least four murders have been committed in Mississippi as a result of Citizens' Councils activity against individuals who have expressed their opinion. When asked for specific information, he stated that his opinion and conclusion had been drawn from reading newspapers. Mr. Patterson said that he did not know the name of any Negro who had been scared or intimidated but that various newspapers have published the names of Negroes who have withdrawn their names from integration petitions and, in his opinion, these Negroes were undoubtedly intimidated and scared into withdrawing their names from the petition. Mr. Patterson cited newspaper stories of the Reverend Marsh Callaway, Durant, Mississippi, as a preacher who was dismissed from the Presbyterian Church for voicing his opinion on the segregation issue. He further claimed that the Reverend James Campbell, Pearl Chapel Methodist Church, Pearl River Community, Rankin County, Mississippi, had preached a sermon on integration and was, thereafter, contacted by members of the church who expressed their disapproval to Reverend Campbell. According to Mr. Patterson, the States-Times, a Jackson, Mississippi, newspaper, telephoned Reverend Campbell and quizzed him on his sermon, thereafter telling Reverend Campbell, "You know if we publish your sermon you will be unable to get a church anywhere in Mississippi." According to Mr. Patterson, Reverend Campbell then requested the newspaper not to publish his sermon and said that he would be glad to forget the whole matter if the newspaper would. According to Mr. Patterson, this was done and no account of the sermon was published in the paper. Mr. Patterson also stated that another Methodist preacher, whose name he did not know and whose location he did not know except it was somewhere in Northern Mississippi, had lost his church because he voiced a contrary opinion on segregation. Mr. Patterson was unable to recall the source of this information. With reference to his statement that all senators, representatives, and congressmen from Mississippi were members of the Citizens' Councils, Mr. Patterson stated that, of course, he did not actually know this to be a fact but he was sure that none of them could be elected if they were not members of Citizens' Councils and since newspapers had published statements from all of them supporting Citizens' Councils, he drew the conclusion that they undoubtedly were all members. Mr. Patterson said that he did not know of any Citizens' Council organization in his own county, Rankin, but he understood one was being organized. Patterson said that he had no

specific information other than reading newspapers concerning any economic pressure being applied against any individual or threats of violence having been made by any organization to deny any individual their rights under the United States Constitution.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : SAC, Memphis (105-121)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI

IS - X

OO: Memphis

DATE: 1-7-56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/18/01 BY 60367 NLS  
X 918421 EP/LS

A pending investigation is being made at the request of Assistant Attorney General WILLIAM F. TOMPKINS, Internal Security Division, for the purpose of determining whether or not the Citizens Council of Humphreys County, Mississippi is advocating or approving intimidation, economic pressure, and violence which would bring the organization within the purview of Executive Order No. 10450. It is desired that investigation be conducted in the New York and Buffalo Divisions.

[redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, has advised Memphis Agents that GUS COURTS told [redacted] that a girl whose last name is [redacted] while working at the Belzoni Dry Cleaners found a slip of paper in the pocket of a suit of clothes belonging to [redacted] which slip was a printed form authorizing the Circuit Court Clerk to cancel the registration of a registered voter. The slip allegedly had a blank space for the name of the person or for his signature, and a blank space for the date of signing. The [redacted] girl then gave the slip to [redacted] who has moved to [redacted] (possibly incorrect spelling), Buffalo, New York, who then gave the slip to GUS COURTS.

Efforts by Memphis Agents to have the slip located at the residence of COURTS have been unsuccessful and it has been ascertained that COURTS is now in New York City in contact with the headquarters of the NAACP.

New York, at New York City, will locate GUS COURTS through headquarters of the NAACP, and question him in detail concerning the manner in which he came into possession of the above-described registration cancellation slip, and endeavor to ascertain the present location of that slip, so that it can be obtained. (Investigation at Belzoni disclosed the slip may have been destroyed by COURTS' daughter.)

Buffalo, at Buffalo, New York, will interview [redacted] concerning the finding of the registration cancellation slip in the pocket of a suit of [redacted] at Belzoni.

- 2 - Bureau (105-34237) (Registered)
- 2 - New York (Registered)

2 - Buffalo (Registered)

1 - Memphis (105-121)

CAB:BN

(7)

INDEXED-42

JAN 10 1956

RECORDED-42

7.II-X3

INT 800

60 JAN 12 1956

RE Letter to Director, 1-7-56

[redacted] should be questioned to determine if he observed the slip when it was found in the suit, the identity of the person who found the slip, and what [redacted] did with the slip.

This investigation should be expedited, inasmuch as the original deadline set by the Bureau is January 9, 1956.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/13/01 BY CIA/CAC/NLSEp(kg)  
918421

105-34237-157  
**CHANGED TO**  
105-42793-10

JAN 24 1956

W.H.

C

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: January 4, 1956

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/18/01 BY 60367 NIS

98421 EPTSL

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
 OF MISSISSIPPI (ACCM)  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
 Bufile 105-34237

Tolson  
 Boardman  
 Nichols  
 Belmont  
 Harbo  
 Mohr  
 Parsons  
 Rosen  
 Tamm  
 Sizoo  
 Winterrowd  
 Tele. Room  
 Holloman  
 Gandy

Investigation of ACCM initiated in December 1954 at suggestion of Department. By memoranda dated 11-22-55, 12-2-55 and 12-9-55 Department requested investigation be intensified to determine if ACCM activities come within purview of Executive Order 10450. The investigation should determine according to the Department if any threats, intimidations, economic pressure and violence used by individuals can be traced to this organization as a group advocating or approving activities to deny others their rights under the Constitution. Memphis and New Orleans instructed by letter 12/16/55 to intensify investigation and furnish results by 1-9-56.

Stated aims of ACCM are to maintain peace, good order and domestic tranquility and to preserve states' rights.

New Orleans Office by airtel 12-30-55, attached, raises question as to whether executive officials of ACCM should be interviewed for information relative to aims and objectives of this organization.

The only question here is whether it is necessary to interview all executive officials of ACCM in order to obtain the information we desire in connection with our investigation of this organization. Undoubtedly some of the executive officials are in a position to furnish the Bureau pertinent information. It is believed that any interviews conducted should be on a selective basis and that prior to any such interviews the New Orleans and Memphis Offices should advise us who the individuals are that they desire to interview and what they can expect to obtain from those individuals. Governor Hugh White of Mississippi and other state officials have adopted a hostile attitude toward Federal interference in what they consider to be a state matter. Officials of ACCM are prominent individuals in this state and undoubtedly some of them would adopt similar hostile attitudes; therefore, prior to any interviews with executive officials the Department will be advised of the necessity for the interviews; what we hoped to accomplish by doing so; and the possibility of any embarrassment which may result.

Enclosure  
 CFW:bas:dlj  
 cc Mr. Boardman  
 cc Mr. Rosen  
 cc [redacted]  
 cc Mr. Belmont

RECORDED

17 JAN 12 1956

(6) 100-103-34237

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman.

Robert B. Patterson, executive secretary of ACCM, has been contacted on several occasions by the Memphis Office and has offered his complete cooperation. It may be that it will be necessary to interview non-executive officials other than Patterson in order to obtain the information we desire with respect to the aims and objectives of this organization.

Information concerning this problem raised by New Orleans is being included in the brief for the Director's use in the conference with the Attorney General on 1-5-56.

RECOMMENDATION:

(detached)

Attached is an airtel to New Orleans and Memphis instructing those offices to advise specifically which of the executive officers they consider it necessary to interview in connection with this investigation and what they expect to obtain from each. Upon receipt of their replies consideration will be given to these interviews and the problem will be taken up with the Department.

CFW  
JBB  
HJM  
JAS

I don't think we should  
be contacting officers  
other than Patterson  
nor

ADDENDUM - January 5, 1956

In order to expedite the handling of this matter, I called SAC Chiles at New Orleans and discussed this matter in line with the above observations. I instructed him to get in touch with Memphis and evaluate which officers should be selected for interview in order to obtain the necessary facts for this investigation; that New Orleans or Memphis should call in and advise us which officers they felt should be interviewed under the circumstances, what their general attitude might be, the extent of their activity in the Citizens Councils, what information they expected to gain from such officers and their recommendation in the matter; that the Bureau would then give appropriate consideration and advise them which interviews should be conducted.

J. A. Sizoo

This should be  
watched very  
closely - Before  
any prominent  
people are contacted  
I suggest clearance with Department

concern.  
Send memo  
to A. G. Rogers  
& Alderman & Johnson

cc [redacted]  
G  
Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

January 11, 1956

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/07 BY 60367 NLS SP/LW

918421

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 9, 1955, with which you furnished a Photostat of an article captioned "The Victims" which recently appeared in the "New York Post." You requested that the individuals mentioned in that article be interviewed for information in their possession concerning captioned organization and its alleged uses of economic pressure.

In response to your request there are being furnished you herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent Laurence J. Frank, Jr., dated January 6, 1956, at New Orleans, Louisiana, and one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 6, 1956, at Detroit, Michigan, both concerning captioned organization. These reports contain the results of interviews with eight of the ten individuals mentioned in the article entitled "The Victims."

Efforts are being made to locate the other two individuals mentioned in that article. Upon ascertaining their whereabouts, they will be interviewed and the results will be furnished you promptly.

*RECORDED*  
Enclosures (2)

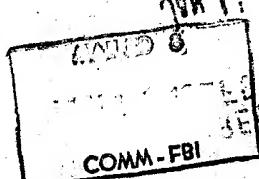
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(4)

RECORDED 605-53

EX-14411

JAN 12 1956  
FBI WASH D.C.  
WASH 8000

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Andy \_\_\_\_\_



65 JAN 13 1956

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT MEMPHIS

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
MEMPHIS	1-7-56	12/23, 27, 29, 30/55	GEORGE A. EVERITT ME BN
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI		INTERNAL SECURITY - X	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[redacted] believes Humphreys Co. Citizens Council responsible for acts of economic pressure at Belzoni, Miss. [redacted] disclaims Citizens Council membership. Copy of prepared form to cancel voter's registration allegedly obtained from pocket of [redacted] Citizens Bank & Trust Co., Belzoni, but possibly destroyed. [redacted] refused to identify persons who exerted economic pressure on him. No additional witnesses located to date who claim economic pressure by [redacted] Guaranty Bank & Trust Co., Belzoni. Meeting possibly in early Dec. 1955 between white and Negro leaders held at Belzoni. Whites allegedly told Negroes if all names removed from voters registration book Negroes could get credit, borrow money, get cotton ginned, and killing would stop. Witnesses unable to state whether reference to killing was a threat or a warning that whites knew or felt something being planned and were trying to prevent it. Other conditions imposed were dissolution of NAACP chapter and buying out business of T. V. JOHNSON. Two Citizens Council members claim force and violence not advocated or approved by Council. Admissions that Association of Citizens Councils of Miss. planned to use economic pressure set out.

*Let 100  
w/cc 1/12/66  
CHW*

P (S) *REC'D 6-2-ONE, 03*  
 REC'D 1/11/56  
 DATE FORM. 85  
 HOW FORM. *ew*

DECLASSIFIED BY *(0080)*  
 ON *3/15/77* LED/rjg

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR		
<b>6 BUREAU (REGISTERED) (105-34237)</b>		RECORDED
1 NEW ORLEANS (105-492) (INFO)		INDEXED - 14
2 MEMPHIS (105-411)		
<i>105-34237 + /</i>		
<i>11 JAN 10 1966</i>		
<i>52 FEB 10 1966</i>		

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b6

b7C

Jan 1-20

091  
091 26-62  
SEC. SEC'D  
FEB 6 1962  
ARIS  
REU [REDACTED]

6 PM '56

[REDACTED]

JAN 10 1962 REC'D, RECORDS SEC.

INTERNAL SECURITY  
FBI  
REC'D, 12 51 PM '56  
JUN 20 12 51 PM '56  
INTERNAL SECURITY SECT.  
FBI

BA  
HOM 1024  
FILE 1024  
REC'D  
FBI

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 1962  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
FBI  
REC'D, 12 51 PM '56

Exhibit b6C

6672.1

ME 105-121

DETAILS: The investigation covered in the period of  
this report is a joint investigation by SA's  
[redacted] and GEORGE A. EVERETT.

By memorandum dated December 2, 1955, addressed to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, by WILLIAM F. TOMPKINS, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, entitled, "Citizens Council of Humphreys County, Mississippi," the Department indicated that it desired certain additional investigation with respect to the Citizens Council of Humphreys County, for the purpose of determining whether that Council comes within the purview of Executive Order Number 10450, and referred to the Department's memorandum of November 22, 1955, specifically requesting investigation concerning instances of the use of economic pressure.

The December 2, 1955 memorandum indicated that [redacted] Taxi Company, Belzoni, had previously furnished information that one [redacted] had stated that "they" had an organization and all had joined it, and had pledged that the Negroes in the County who are eligible to vote would get no aid whatsoever; further, that [redacted] had been told by [redacted] and a [redacted] that both had attended a meeting of five hundred men the previous night, at which they all decided not to help the Negroes who were engaged in voting.

The Department stated it would be necessary to ascertain if the alleged acts of economic pressure by various individuals are advocated or approved by the Citizens Councils. It requested further investigation to determine the organization referred to by [redacted] and whether or not the members thereof as a group had pledged that Negroes eligible to vote would be subjected to economic pressure. Further, it was requested that investigation be conducted to determine whether the meeting referred to by [redacted] and [redacted] was a meeting of the Citizens Council or some other organization, and whether an agreement was reached as a group not to help Negroes engaged in voting.

The Department's memorandum of December 2, 1955 also referred to information furnished by [redacted] concerning a discussion he allegedly had with [redacted] of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Company at Belzoni, wherein [redacted] stated he had been advised not to lend money to any Negroes who were registered to vote, and that [redacted] told [redacted] he got his orders

ME 105-121

from the "White Council." The Department requested further investigation to obtain substantiation of the statements allegedly made by [redacted] to [redacted] by locating other informants to whom [redacted] may have made similar statements.

The Department's December 2, 1955 memorandum further made reference to information furnished by [redacted] that he was told by an unidentified individual, an official of a seed and fertilizer company, that he could not receive any credit with that company since the official, as a member of the Citizens Council, could not give [redacted] any credit unless [redacted] cancelled his registration; further, that [redacted] reported that the company official had in his possession printed forms authorizing cancellation of voter's registration, requiring only the insertion of the name of the voter and the date.

The Department requested further investigation to determine if informants are available who can furnish similar information regarding conversations with the above mentioned official, and the existence of the prepared forms for cancellation of voter's registration, adding that a copy of such form, if obtainable, would be of assistance in this matter.

This report reflects investigation of alleged activities relating specifically to Humphreys County, Mississippi.

On December 23, 1955, [redacted] Taxi Company, who resides at [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that [redacted] works for the City of Belzoni, [redacted] and lives [redacted]

[redacted] He stated he was talked to by [redacted] and [redacted] on separate occasions during the day time, shortly after the Citizens Council was formed at Belzoni, but he said neither [redacted] nor [redacted] made reference to the Citizens Council by name.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] (known to SA EVERETT to be [redacted]) did not name the Citizens Council but told him, "They were getting together and forming an organization." He stated [redacted] made the statements to him about the fact that the best thing for him to do was to leave the voting alone, when he went to [redacted] to obtain some automobile tires on credit. He stated that all three merely told him they would not be able

ME 105-121

to help Negroes at all and Negroes would be unable to get credit if they continued efforts to vote, but that no other kind of pressure was mentioned in his presence. [redacted] said there is no question in his mind but that all three referred to the Citizens Council, as that is the only organization in this area of that nature, to the best of his knowledge.

[redacted] could not recall any dates involved in these contacts or conversations and stated he does not know of anyone else who was contacted by [redacted] or [redacted] with regard to voting or economic pressure.

[redacted] further stated that he did not see any forms which had been made up to take names off the registration book, but he understands that [redacted] was trying to obtain one of the forms. He does not know of anyone else who may have obtained one of the forms, or slips. M

At the conclusion of the above interview, [redacted] notified Agents that [redacted] was inside his place of business and [redacted] then called [redacted] outside.

M  
On December 23, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that he does not belong to the Citizens Council. He said he has a brother, [redacted] who is a member of the Citizens Council. [redacted] said he did not tell [redacted] anything about not voting and that he knows nothing about the voting issue, adding that he does not know who is registered and has no interest in whether Negroes vote or not.

[redacted] stated he was residing in Jackson, Mississippi from about January to December, 1955, but had been in Belzoni, Mississippi prior to that time. He stated he did not talk to any Negro about voting or economic pressure, and that [redacted] must have confused him with some other person. He stated [redacted] knows him well and would not mistake him for his brother, [redacted]. [redacted] He said he has [redacted] other brothers who live at Indianola, Mississippi.

Efforts to locate [redacted] for interview were unsuccessful.

On December 23, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, advised SA's [redacted]

ME 105-121

and EVERETT that a presser, whose name he could not recall and who has gone to New York, allegedly had found a registration cancellation form in the clothing of [REDACTED] the banker, and he has been trying to obtain that form. [REDACTED] stated there are [REDACTED] who work at the two banks in Belzoni and he had not learned [REDACTED] the presser meant. He stated that the presser told him that he, the presser, tore up the form, but he later learned that GUS COURTS had obtained the form from him.

On December 23, 1955, [REDACTED] Belzoni, advised SA's [REDACTED] ad EVERETT that [REDACTED] GUS COURTS, is back in the hospital at Mound Bayou, Mississippi and she has no information about the whereabouts of a registration cancellation form. She stated, however, that she knew what Agents were talking about. She said she was planning to visit COURTS on the next day and would ask him about the location of the form.

On December 27, 1955, [REDACTED] further advised that GUS COURTS had told her he remembered getting the form but could not recall what he did with it. She stated she would look through the store and try to find the form, and would furnish it to Agents.

On December 29, 1955, [REDACTED] further advised that she had been unsuccessful in trying to locate the registration cancellation form, and is convinced it is not in her store or residence, which is in the rear of the store. She stated she last saw [REDACTED] GUS COURTS, on December 24, 1955 at the Mound Bayou Hospital, but she does not believe he is still at the hospital, since he told her he was going to New York and was not coming back to Belzoni.

On December 27, 1955, [REDACTED] further advised that he has not succeeded in obtaining the name or address of the former employee who obtained the registration cancellation form from the pocket of [REDACTED]. He stated he would go to [REDACTED] and endeavor to locate the form and furnish it to Agents.

[REDACTED] further stated that on election day (he could not recall whether it was the August Primary or the November General Election) a Negro named [REDACTED] who resides at Belzoni, was cut with a knife by a white man named [REDACTED]

ME 105-121

[redacted] after a "run-in" at the Courthouse in Belzoni, where the voting polls were located. He stated the incident occurred on the Courthouse lawn, however, and not near the voting polls.

[redacted] further stated that recently there was a meeting between some of the Negro leaders and white leaders of Belzoni at [redacted] service station. He said he was told by [redacted] about the meeting, which was attended by [redacted] and [redacted] further told him he was going to move from Belzoni since he did not like the situation. [redacted] said [redacted] named [redacted] and [redacted] of Belzoni, as being white men present at the meeting.

On December 30, 1955, [redacted] further advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that he had learned from [redacted] that GUS COURTS told her the registration cancellation form was in his purse at his residence. [redacted] told him that she could not find the form, and [redacted] said he looked in the purse and knows for sure that the form is not there. He stated he believes GUS COURTS' [redacted] who was present on a visit, had slipped the form out of the purse and destroyed it, since she told him it would be no use to look for the form and was not interested in his offer of payment if she could find the form.

[redacted] stated that GUS COURTS told [redacted] that a girl named [redacted] who worked at the Belzoni Dry Cleaners found the slip in the pocket of [redacted] who is [redacted] of the Citizens Bank & Trust Company. She then gave the form to [redacted] who also worked at Belzoni Dry Cleaners, and who has moved to [redacted] Buffalo, New York. [redacted] gave the form to GUS COURTS. [redacted] stated he doubts if the [redacted] girl, whose first name he could not recall, would admit having found the form.

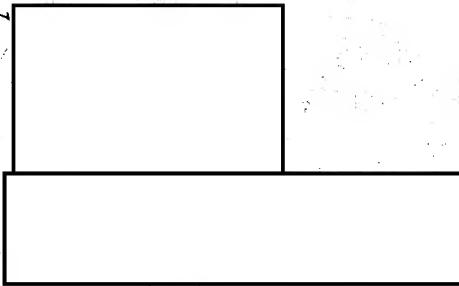
[redacted] further advised that [redacted] told him the previous day that the following persons attended the meeting referred to above:

Negroes: [redacted]

[redacted] who lives on [redacted] BELZONI, MISS.  
[redacted] who is known at Bankhead Service Station

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Whites:



[redacted] stated that [redacted] told him the spokesman for the white men at the meeting was [redacted]

[redacted] further advised that GUS COURTS could be located in New York through the headquarters of the NAACP, since that is where he intended to go when he left the hospital at Mound Bayou.

On December 27, 1955, [redacted] an [redacted]

[redacted] and resides at [redacted]

Belzoni, refused to identify the man at the feed and seed store at Belzoni who told him he could not get any more credit unless he removed his name from the voting list. [redacted] stated the man, who actually is at one of the wholesale grocery companies in Belzoni, did him some favors and he promised not to disclose the man's identity. He said the man is expected to help him in the future and therefore he would not violate his promise not to disclose the man's identity. He stated he is satisfied with the way things are and does not want to get mixed up with anything else.

[redacted] stated his business has increased and he is more interested in his financial position than in the ability to vote. [redacted] stated he does not know anyone else who was refused credit similarly to himself and he really did not care to discuss the matter any further. He stated that the two wholesale groceries in Belzoni are the Humphreys County Grocery, operated by [redacted] and the Belzoni Grocery Company, operated by [redacted] whose first names he does not know.

[redacted] stated that about two weeks ago five Negro leaders in the community contacted some of the white leaders and told them they wanted to call a truce and would forget about the registration and voting for the time being and would take up all poll tax receipts held by Negroes, since they wanted things "like they were before." He stated he does not know who initiated

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plans for the meeting.

On December 27, 1955, [redacted] Isola, Mississippi, was interviewed by SA's [redacted] and EVERETT. He stated that last summer he heard rumors that gins in this area might not gin cotton for the Negro farmers who had registered and he decided to "test out" some of the Citizens Council people to see what their attitudes were. He stated he went to [redacted] the Peoples Gin at Isola and asked for an advance on cottonseed money, which was promptly given him. He said in October, 1955, he went to [redacted] Belzoni, and settled with the bank for the furnish money on that crop. He said that on December 15, 1955, he went back to the bank and borrowed \$100.00 for Christmas from [redacted] without any difficulty.

[redacted] stated that in his original conversation with [redacted] said he was not telling [redacted] what to do, but merely wanted to let him know that he had been advised not to lend money to persons who had registered to vote. [redacted] said that [redacted] actually did not mention the Citizens Council by name, and he believes [redacted] meant that he had been advised by the Directors of the Bank. He stated he believed he has previously mentioned to Agents that [redacted] was instructed by the Citizens Council, but he, [redacted] feels that statement was in error, although it is possible that [redacted] was referring to the Citizens Council.

[redacted] said that since he removed his name from the registration book he has had no difficulty financially and his relationships with the white people have been the same as before the Citizens Council was formed.

[redacted] further stated that he knows of no one else to whom [redacted] made statements concerning not lending money so long as names were on the registration list. [redacted] said [redacted] did not make any statement to his brother, [redacted] possibly feeling that [redacted] would pass the word on to him.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] and JOHN GUNN, who are his neighbors, did not take their names off the registration list and he has not heard of any trouble they have had. [redacted] stated he is not a member of the NAACP but was a member of the

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Humphreys County Civic League, which was started by Negro leaders in Belzoni, principally Reverend G. W. LEE and CUS COURTS.

On December 27, 1955, the following signed statement was given by JOHN WELSEY GUNN, Route #1, Box 16-B, Isola, Mississippi:

"RFD Isola, Miss.  
Dec. 27, 1955

" I, John Welsey Gunn, age 50, make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and George A. Everett, Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats, force, or promises have been used to get me to make this statement.

" On the 29th day of August, 1955, I ginned my first bale of cotton at [redacted] gin at Isola. The next day a Tuesday, I took another bale to the gin and [redacted] who is at the gin office told me to take the bale somewhere else. He did not say anything else and gave no reason, but I figured it was because I was registered to vote.

" I took that bale to Inverness to the gin across the railroad from the turn at Billups Service Station and they ginned it, on 8-30-55. The next day I took another bale to Inverness to the same gin, the Delta Gin, and a low heavy-set man that I think owned the gin met me and said a man from Wright, Peoples and Evans gins at Isola had been there the afternoon before and told him not to gin cotton for Gunn. [redacted] and [redacted] as they had been giving them some trouble. I asked what kind of trouble, and he said "they" didn't tell him what kind of trouble. He asked if I had paid Poll Tax, and I said I had. He said that might be the trouble. I said it looked like they would have said something to me, but they haven't. He told me to go on back and get straightened out and he would gin my cotton. I told him if I got it straightened out I wouldn't have to come back.

" The same evening I went to [redacted] and told him we had been blocked from ginning.

" The next day, Thursday, [redacted] and I went to the Circuit Court Clerk in Belzoni to remove our names from the Voting List.

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"The lady who had registered me was there. When we told her what we wanted to do, she got the book and looked where we were registered. She typed out some kind of agreements for her to take our names off the book. She gave one to me and one to [redacted] and told us to take them to [redacted] [redacted] at the service station across the street. We took them and [redacted] showed us where to sign, which we did. He said he would take them back to the Clerk.

" That morning, Thursday, September 2, 1955, [redacted] [redacted] and I went out by Evans Gin at Isola on our way to Belzoni. I took a bale of cotton. [redacted] asked [redacted] if he would gin our cotton if we took our names off the Voting Book, and he said he would. [redacted] asked if we would have to bring a note showing we had removed our names, and [redacted] the office man, spoke up and said that would not be necessary, as they would know whether our names were removed or not.

" No other white man has said anything to me about voting or poll tax.

" This four page statement has been read to me by Mr. Everett and it is true.

/s/ John W. Gunn

"Witnessed:

/s/ [redacted] FBI  
/s/ George A. Everett, FBI, Memphis, Tenn."

WHS

\* \* \*

GUNN further stated that he does not borrow money from the banks at Belzoni, but has borrowed money from the Office of the Indianola Production Credit Association at Belzoni, operated by [redacted]. He stated he is not an NAACP member, but has been to meetings of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership at Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and one NAACP meeting at Belzoni.

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OF COLORED PEOPLE

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GUNN stated he does not pay much attention to what other people say, since so many of the Negroes in that area tell things which could not possibly be true. He stated there is considerable division of opinion among the Negroes as to what course to follow. Some of the Negroes feel it is best to do what the white people want them to do, since they are solely interested in making a living and are not interested in improving themselves in any manner. He stated the more intelligent Negroes would like to vote, but many of them feel that their economic welfare is more important than holding out for rights which they have been able to live without in the past.

GUNN stated that nothing else has been said to him by anyone concerning the voting situation, and no one has questioned him about his poll tax receipts. He said he, himself, told [redacted] about the trouble he was having getting his cotton ginned. and as far as he knows no white person said anything to [redacted] about ginning. GUNN said that [redacted] who lives across the Sunflower River, sent word to all the Negroes in that area that he would be willing to gin all their cotton and it didn't make any difference to him whether they were registered to vote or not.

GUNN further stated that white people have not molested him in any way, but that he has had considerable trouble with his Negro neighbors, some of them having poisoned his cattle, torn down his fences, and created other trouble for him. He said it is of no use to report such matters to the law enforcement officers because he feels they will not do anything in his behalf since he was registered to vote.

GUNN stated that two other Negroes in the vicinity who have been contacted by white men with regard to removing their names from the voters list are [redacted] and [redacted]  
[redacted]

Attempts on December 27 and 29, 1955 to contact [redacted] and [redacted] were unsuccessful.

[redacted] Isola,  
Mississippi, on December 27, 1955 advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT  
MEMBER NAACP, ASSOC. FOR THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF COLORED PEOPLE

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that he paid poll tax and registered to vote. He said no white person said anything to him directly about taking his name off the voting list. He did not ask any white person for credit, or for a loan, during the past year.

[redacted] said he heard rumors that Negroes would not be able to get their cotton ginned at Isola, where he has always ginned, and he went to [redacted] with whom he has previously ginned. He stated he had already ginned about four bales of his cotton at [redacted] Gin and had not been denied the right to gin or talked to in any way by [redacted] about ginning.

[redacted] said the reason he went to [redacted] was that JOHN GUNN had come to him and told him they could not get their cotton ginned unless they took their names off the registration list. When he asked [redacted] about that, [redacted] told him that he would have no trouble getting his cotton ginned.

[redacted] said [redacted] told him that he had not told him he could not gin and did not intend to tell him that he could not. [redacted] said he was satisfied then that he would have no difficulty in getting his cotton ginned, but in order to help JOHN GUNN he went with GUNN to Evans Gin and asked [redacted] in the presence of

[redacted] what they had to do in order to gin, and [redacted] replied for them to do what they knew was the best thing to do. He asked [redacted] if he should get a statement showing they had taken their names off the list, and [redacted] said that would not be necessary, inasmuch as they would know when the names had been removed. [redacted]

[redacted] further stated his wife, [redacted] was also registered and paid poll tax one time, but has not taken her name off the list. She has not been contacted by anyone about removing her name. [redacted] said he knows of no one who was refused a loan at one of the Belzoni Banks or was subjected to economic pressure in any other way because of being registered to vote. He stated [redacted] who operates a gin across the Sunflower River from their farm, sent word that any Negro could gin at his gin without any trouble.

[redacted] stated that at an earlier date when the farmers voted on cotton acreage allotment he went to Isola in order to vote. This was not a public election, but merely a cotton farmers' meeting. He said while there [redacted] came up to him and asked if he belonged to the NAACP. He replied that he was a member and [redacted] then asked him if people up North

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were "pumping up their heads, taking their money, and trying to get colored children to go to school with the whites?" [redacted] said he told [redacted] that he knew nothing about that, and [redacted] told him it would be better for him to get his name off the registration list, as he would be able to conduct his business easier if he did. He said [redacted] made no threats and did not mistreat him in any way, but their talk was in a conversational manner and appeared to be on a friendly basis.

[redacted] stated that as a result of his talk with JOHN GUNN and with [redacted] at the gin, he went with GUNN to the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk in Belzoni and the lady who works there was the only person present. He told her they wanted to get their names off the list and she gave them each a piece of paper which she wrote out, and told them to take the papers to a white man at the service station. They went there and signed their names and the man kept the papers. He did not know the name of the white man to whom they gave the papers, but stated the service station is across the street from the Courthouse and just south of the Standard Oil Station. (This describes generally the location of the service station of [redacted] and [redacted] operated by [redacted])

On December 29, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that he took his name off the registration list on Tuesday, December 20, 1955. He stated this was done after a meeting of NAACP leaders with white men at Belzoni. He said no white persons discussed the meeting with him but that he has discussed it with some of the Negroes who attended. He said he does not know what day the meeting was held but it was about a week before he took his name off the list, and he believes it was on a Thursday. He heard he had been invited to attend the meeting, but he was out of town on that date and did not attend.

[redacted] stated he heard that at the meeting it was said that Negroes whose names were on the list would not be able to get their cotton ginned anywhere in Mississippi the following year. He stated he does not know of anyone who was refused a loan by [redacted] because of having his name on the list. [redacted] stated he also heard that at the meeting the white men gave the Negroes a list of those registered and told them to get their names off the list so "accidents and stuff like that" would stop. He said he heard there were possibly eighty names on the list. He said no white person said anything to him about removing his name from the list but he decided to remove his name because of things that had happened at Belzoni about which nothing was done. He said when he removed his name [redacted] Circuit Court Clerk, typed a statement which he signed in her presence, authorizing her to cancel his registration.

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On December 29, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, stated he attended the recent meeting between the white and Negro leaders. [redacted] stated pressure has been exerted from all angles against the Negroes economically and most of them are afraid.

He said that the meeting was held at [redacted] Service Station about two weeks ago, but he does not remember the exact date. There were five Negroes and eight whites at the meeting. The Negroes were: [redacted]

[redacted] and himself. He said [redacted] was asked to come to the meeting but had to go to the doctor and was not at the meeting. The white men present were: [redacted]

[redacted] an insurance man who used to be Mayor of Belzoni; and [redacted] who acted as the spokesman for the white people at the meeting.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] was not invited to the meeting but learned the meeting was to be held and came on his own initiative and sat through the meeting.

[redacted] stated the meeting was arranged after [redacted] went to [redacted] on a Monday and talked with him. On that same night, [redacted] telephoned him and asked him to come over. He went to [redacted] place on Tuesday for the meeting. They had mentioned the names of the Negroes they wanted to come to the meeting.

[redacted] stated that at the meeting, [redacted] did the talking--the white men there asking him to act as spokesman. [redacted] stated they wanted to go back to where things were before and wanted the names of all Negroes off the registration list. One of the white men present gave [redacted] the list and [redacted] saw it but does not recall the names which were on the list. He stated that they were told that if the names were removed from the list, the Negroes could get furnish money to make crops, could get credit at stores and banks, could get their cotton ginned, and the killing would stop. [redacted] said they could talk to the white folks and tell them that the Negroes had removed their names from the list and spread the word around that the names were off the list and this would stop the shootings.

[redacted] stated that since the meeting, he has wondered if the white men present represented the Citizens' Council or

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were speaking for the white people of Humphreys County. He stated he did not know if the statement about the killings stopping was a threat by the Citizens' Council or if those men who are members of the Citizens' Council were trying to warn them that they knew or felt something was going to happen and were trying to prevent it by asking the Negroes to remove the cause by taking their names off the registration list.

[redacted] stated that no agreement was entered into at the meeting, and after the meeting the Negroes talked among themselves. All felt that if they did not remove their names from the list soon there was a good possibility something unpleasant would happen.

At the meeting, one of the Negroes asked when they should get the names off the list and [redacted] said the sooner the better; that as soon as they got started removing their names, they would be showing good faith and things would clear up.

Besides removing the names of all Negroes from the registration list, which was given in the form of an ultimatum, it was mentioned that the Negroes should disband the NAACP, which he stated is not necessary since there is no activity on the part of the Belzoni Chapter of the NAACP at this time.

In addition, the white men wanted the Negroes present to boycott T. V. JOHNSON's funeral home and send their business to [redacted] which has opened a burial insurance office at Belzoni. He stated this is a Negro funeral home with offices at Indianola, Mississippi. [redacted] stated that the white men stated that they wanted T. V. JOHNSON to leave town and suggested that the Negroes present, all of whom were fairly independent financially, buy T. V. JOHNSON's business so that JOHNSON would have no excuse for staying in Belzoni.

[redacted] stated that a Negro who is not a farmer told him on December 28, 1955 that the white men who operate the gins had a meeting and decided they would not gin cotton of any Negro on the registration list. The meeting, he said, may have embraced a wider area than Humphreys County since the rumor was that Negroes could not get their cotton ginned from Belzoni to Clarksdale, Mississippi, if they did not take their names off the list. Some Negroes, he said, were specifically told about the

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ginning situation but it caused very few to remove their names from the registration list.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] was cut by a white man named [redacted] on Election Day. He stated that [redacted] walked through a group of Negroes who were gathered on the Courthouse lawn and brushed against them and told them to get out of his way. A short time later, he met [redacted] on a street corner away from the courthouse and cut him on the hand or arm with a knife. [redacted] was taken to the Belzoni Hospital but would not make any criminal charges against [redacted] therefore, [redacted] was not prosecuted for his act.

[redacted] also stated that several days before GUS COURTS was shot, he understands that [redacted] told COURTS, "they" were going to get him in a short time if he didn't straighten out.

[redacted] stated that he has not yet taken his name off the registration list and has not made up his mind whether he will remove it or not. It is noted that during another investigation, GUS COURTS, on November 27, 1955, while at the Taborian Hospital, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, recovering from gunshot wounds inflicted by an unidentified assailant at Belzoni, stated to SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that he was told by [redacted] "four days ago" that "they are planning on getting rid of you--I don't know how and don't want to know."

On December 30, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, who was interviewed by SA's [redacted] and EVERETT on his farm near Belzoni, stated he did not desire to furnish any information as he does not want to become involved in any trouble and is thinking of leaving Belzoni. He stated he took his name off the registration list sometime during the past two weeks but does not want to get involved in any big issue. [redacted] declined to furnish any information concerning the meeting between white and Negro leaders. He stated he was not planning to leave the United States unless he got a free trip to Russia, in which event he might go to Russia since it appeared the Federal Government was not going to be able to do anything about the situation at Belzoni.

[redacted] was advised that the Government would find it extremely difficult to relieve the situation if persons in possession of the facts refused to furnish them to representatives of the Government.

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[redacted] On December 30, 1955 [redacted] and his wife, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, were jointly interviewed by SA's [redacted] and EVERETT.

[redacted] stated he has considerable money tied up at Belzoni and does not want to leave, therefore, he declined to discuss the meeting between white and Negroes in any manner. He stated he had not "been squeezed" with regard to money since he did not have to borrow any money.

[redacted] said he took his name off the registration list recently and is going to take his wife to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office on December 30 or December 31, 1955 to take her name off the list also. He stated that if no more can be done by the Government than has already been done with the facts the Government now has, it is better for the Government to leave the matter alone and not keep stirring up the white people by making repeated investigations and leaving the Negroes unprotected.

[redacted] was advised that unless sufficient facts could be obtained from persons in possession of information to establish grounds for the Federal Government to take action, no action could be taken by the Government. He stated that he understood perfectly but he felt that if the facts already known by the Government were not sufficient to establish a violation, no violation would ever be established.

On December 30, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that he attended the meeting between white and Negro leaders several weeks ago at [redacted] service station. He said quite a bit of pressure was put on the Negroes at that meeting, and the way his business is he could not stand pressure. He stated the white men did not threaten to do any specific thing against the Negroes but told the Negroes what could be done if they did not remove their names from the list. He said they did not tell the Negroes they could not gin their cotton but told them there would not be any trouble ginning their cotton if they removed their names.

[redacted] stated he did not pay poll tax the last time, in January, 1955, and he is not registered since he did not pass the test given him. He said the main thing he was interested in

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was ginning his cotton, although he would like to vote but he prefers to let the voting drop if things were going to become worse than they already are.

[redacted] stated the white men told them what would be best for the Negroes and advised them that if they dropped their attempts to vote, there would be no more pressures put on them. He stated they did not mention credit or lending money, as well as he recalls. He said the white men told them they believed the shootings and violence would stop if the Negroes stopped trying to vote, adding that they did not know who did the shooting but felt whoever was responsible for it would quit if the Negroes disqualified themselves from voting.

[redacted] advised the men did not say they would stop the shooting. Also, the white men mentioned T. V. JOHNSON and said they believed the County would be better off if he left.

[redacted] stated that he was asked to come to the meeting by [redacted] and does not recall the date of the meeting but it was in the afternoon. The only white man he knew personally was [redacted] who did the talking for the white men. He said he had no trouble ginning his cotton this year and did not hear of anyone else having trouble ginning cotton. [redacted] stated that his wife is not registered to vote.

[redacted]  
[redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, on December 30, 1955 advised SA's [redacted] and EVERETT that [redacted] asked him to come to the meeting between the white and Negro leaders. He declined to say what happened at the meeting but stated he took his name off the registration list several days ago. He stated he does not wish to furnish information as he is in business and since he is alone at his store often at night, he fears he might be harmed if he talked.

With the exception of JOHN WELSEY GUNN, all of the persons interviewed above preferred not to furnish written statements.

On December 29, 1955, [redacted]  
Belzoni, Mississippi, was interviewed by SA's [redacted] and EVERETT, prior to being advised that [redacted] attended the meeting of white and Negro leaders at Belzoni.

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[redacted] stated that he is a farmer and gin operator. He has been a member of the Citizens' Council and has attended several meetings. He stated that it looks to him like the Citizens' Council is about to fold up at Belzoni. At the meetings he attended and from conversations with other members, nothing has been said to indicate to him that the Citizens' Council advocates or approves the use of force and violence. He and many other members of the Citizens' Council are definitely opposed to the use of force or violence, he said, as that is not a proper way to solve problems. [redacted] said the majority of people at Belzoni are opposed to the use of force or violence, but in all communities there is an element which cannot be controlled by reason. He said there are no doubt some at Belzoni who would use force, whether or not there was a Citizens' Council.

[redacted] stated one of the purposes of forming a Citizens' Council at Belzoni was to try to prevent violence.

With regard to economic pressure, [redacted] said he has not used such pressure, nor does he know of an agreement by anyone to use it. He stated that on his farm he employs a Negro manager at a salary of \$4,000 annually; at the [redacted] Gin, he employs a Negro ginner at \$150 per week during the ginning season. He stated he has always believed in giving positions of responsibility to Negroes who have shown they can handle the job. He stated that in his business, he has refused to lend money to some Negroes for reasons of business judgment without knowing whether or not they were registered to vote. During 1955, he said, he loaned money to [redacted] and was recently repaid and he knew [redacted] was one of the leaders of the Negro voting group.

[redacted] stated he did not refuse to gin cotton for any Negro. [redacted] stated that if GEORGE W. LEE had been killed by white people, such killing was not instigated by the Citizens' Council but was the individual action of some person or persons. He said it was only logical that the Negroes blamed it on the Citizens' Council and everyone at Belzoni knew that the Council would be blamed for it when it happened.

On October 30, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, who is employed at Cullander Machinery Company, advised that he had been a member of the Citizens' Council at Belzoni since its formation. He has attended many meetings but has not attended all of the meetings of the Council. He stated there has never been any action taken by the Citizens'

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Council or talk by the Council advocating the use of force or violence, and while there has been no official action by the Council toward the use of force or violence, it is possible that the violence which has occurred in Belzoni may have been committed by individual members of the Council.

[redacted] stated that if Council members had been involved in the violence, it was strictly on their own and not due to any agreement on the part of the Council, which is opposed to the use of force and violence. He stated that at all meetings of the Council he has attended, statements have been made that there would be no violence tolerated. He said that the Citizens' Council at Belzoni was formed at the time of the school [redacted] in the fall of 1954 when tempers were high due to rumors Negroes were going to try to enter their children in the white school. The purpose of the Citizens' Council being formed at that time, he said, was to prevent violence in the event Negroes did appear at the school since it was a known fact that some of the people around Belzoni would probably try to take matters in their own hands and violence would result.

[redacted] stated as far as he knows, the Citizens' Council at Belzoni is still active and there is no indication it might fold up. He stated he did not know anything about a meeting of white men and Negroes, except by hearsay but no such meeting has been proposed or discussed at a meeting of the Citizens' Council.

[redacted] stated with regard to the incident wherein it is alleged a man named [redacted] cut a Negro named [redacted] that on that day he was at the Courthouse and heard about the cutting and is of the opinion it was a personal matter. He stated that nothing whatsoever was done by the Citizens' Council to cause that cutting and he is reasonably certain, although he does not know for sure, that [redacted] is not a member of the Citizens' Council.

[redacted] exhibited to Agents his 1955 and 1956 Citizens' Council membership cards which are quoted as follows:

"Citizens Council of Humphreys County

"Membership Card 1955-56

"This is to certify that [redacted] Branch (X) Belzoni  
[redacted] ( ) Isola  
has paid his dues for this year. ( ) Louise

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"Dedicated to maintenance of peace, good order and domestic tranquility in our communities and the preservation of States' Rights.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Secretary

"  
CITIZENS COUNCIL

- - - - - MISS

"This certifies that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a member in good standing of the  
Citizens' Council  
of Belzoni, Miss.  
with dues paid for the calendar  
year 1955 overprinted hereon.

[REDACTED] Treasurer "

- - - - -

In connection with this and other investigations at Belzoni, the following information was obtained by Special Agents as indicated. It will be noted from the dates of interviews that most of the information set out below was obtained prior to the first reported act of violence, which was the death of GEORGE WESLEY LEE, on May 7, 1955.

On June 6, 1955, [REDACTED] Belzoni, Mississippi, advised SA GEORGE A. EVERETT that he had joined the Citizens' Council at Belzoni when it was organized and had paid his dues but had been promised that he would not be listed as a member. He stated he has never been inside the meeting place when a meeting of the Council was held but that he always stood on the outside so he could hear what was going on in the meeting. [REDACTED] stated that at all of the meetings he has been to, the members were cautioned on each occasion to stay within the law and that no plan or plot had ever been discussed at any of the meetings to kill or physically harm any Negro.

[REDACTED] Isela, Mississippi, on June 15, 1955, advised SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] among other things that in February, 1955, he went

ME # 105-21

[redacted] to see [redacted] banker at Belzoni, Mississippi, about his furnish money. He stated he asked [redacted] about the money which he desired to borrow, whereupon [redacted] asked him if he had taken his name off the book. [redacted] stated he told [redacted] that he had not and offered [redacted] his poll tax receipts but [redacted] did not accept them and told him to go down and take his name off the registration book. He told [redacted] that he would do so and then went and canceled his registration. He stated [redacted] told him that he would not be able to help him unless he took his name off the registration.

[redacted] stated he went back to [redacted] after he had canceled his registration and obtained his furnish money. [redacted] also stated that at the same time his wife accompanied him and canceled her registration.

On January 12, 1955, [redacted] of the "Delta Democrat Times", a daily newspaper at Greenville, Mississippi, was interviewed by SA [redacted]

[redacted] stated he had conducted considerable investigation concerning the Citizens' Council movement. He found that members of the Citizens' Councils strongly disclaim any connection with the Ku Klux Klan and as a matter of fact, some persons joined the Citizens' Councils to prevent the rising of the Klan, the idea being that responsible citizens banded together to take legal action would prevent a need for the Klan to be reactivated. He said that at its inception, in his opinion, there was nothing illegal in the Citizens' Councils. He pointed out that in some instances members acting as individuals had used the Citizens' Councils for their own ends and it is, accordingly, difficult to determine whether members are acting as individuals or as representatives of the Citizens' Councils. He pointed out that in most instances, the Citizens' Councils are not closely enough knit for the members to know exactly what is going on in their respective group.

On February 4, 1955, [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, advised SA GEORGE A. EVERETT that any illegal action is strictly against the policy of the Citizens' Council. He stated that all members are pledged to defend the United States and any member who advocates or believes in the overthrow of the United States Government will be dropped from the group and immediately reported to the FBI.

[redacted] Attorney, Indianola, Mississippi, on February 8, 1955, furnished SA GEORGE A. EVERETT a printed sheet

ME # 105-121

setting out information concerning committees to be formed in Citizens' Councils and reflecting the duties of each committee. Under the heading "Political and Elections Committee" is the statement, "Discourage Negro registration by every legal means."

On October 15, 1954, SA GEORGE A. EVERETT received through the mail, apparently from ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, a number of printed pamphlets and other material, among which was a copy of a letter signed "FRED JONES, Member of the Board of Supervisors, Sunflower County, District 1." JONES at one time was listed as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association. This letter deals with the segregation issue and the following excerpts are copied:

"The Citizens' Council is an organization designed to alert and mobilize public opinion and to accomplish our aims and objectives in a legal and orderly manner. In the Counties where we have been organized, our lawyers, our bankers, and our business men have been the leaders in this organization. If our highest type of citizenship fails to supply a plan to maintain segregation and the integrity of the white race, then the wrong crowd will supply the leadership and there will be violence and bloodshed.

"We can accomplish our purposes largely with economic pressure in dealing with members of the Negro race who are not cooperating, and with members of the white race who fail to cooperate, we can apply social and political pressure....

"In my opinion, it is the duty of the leadership in each community to see that peace and order is preserved and violence averted." .....

On January 24, 1955, [redacted] Greenville, Mississippi, was interviewed by SA [redacted]. He is the [redacted] of the "Delta Leader", a Negro newspaper, [redacted] in Greenville. [redacted] stated that the main method employed by the Citizens' Council has been to exert pressure on Negroes by withdrawing credit to them. He said he has heard reports concerning contacts made on Negroes at Belzoni to have them withdraw their names from the voting roll. He added that it was his understanding that the Negro voters had been approached by individuals, not as members of the Citizens' Councils, and furthermore, these activities

ME # 105-121

were going on long before the Citizens' Council was formed.

- P -

ME # 105-21

Leads have been set out by letter for the New York Office to interview GUS COURTS, care of NAACP Headquarters, New York City, N.Y., and the Buffalo Office to interview [redacted] Buffalo, N.Y., concerning the printed form of authority to cancel a voter's registration allegedly obtained from the pocket of [redacted]

- - - - -  
L E A D S

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION:

AT BELZONI, MISSISSIPPI

- (1) Will interview [redacted] stated to be a [redacted] to ascertain if the meeting referred to by him in his conversation with [redacted] was in fact a meeting of the Citizens' Council.
- (2) Will interview [redacted] or [redacted] concerning the events leading up to his being cut by a man named [redacted] on election day to determine if such violence was connected in any way with the Citizens' Council.
- (3) Will question [redacted] a carpenter and bricklayer, who resides in the section of Belzoni known as Germantown, for any information he may have concerning Citizens' Council activity, indicating the use or approval of force or violence.
- (4) Will interview [redacted] for any information he may have concerning Citizens' Council activity, indicating the use or approval of force or violence.
- (5) Will interview [redacted] concerning his knowledge prior to the shooting of GUS COURTS that COURTS might be harmed to determine if the shooting of COURTS was planned by the Citizens' Council. Will also question [redacted] as to whether or not his contacting of several Negroes in Belzoni and suggesting they remove their names from the list of registered voters was done as an act of the Citizens' Council or on an individual basis.

ME # 105-121

- L E A D S - (Cont'd)

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION:

ISOLA, MISSISSIPPI

Will interview [redacted] and [redacted] who reside on the Government project west of Isola, for information they may have indicating contacts by Citizens' Council members applying economic pressure.

REFERENCE: Memorandum by Director to Assistant Attorney General WILLIAM F. TOMPKINS, 12/16/55.

Bureau letter to Memphis, 12/6/55.

Report of SA GEORGE A. EVERETT, 2/16/55 at Memphis.

Reports of SA [redacted] dated 6/15/55 and 6/22/55 at Memphis in the case entitled, "UNSUBS, Belzoni, Miss.; REV. GEORGE WESLEY LEE - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS", Bufile 44-8949.

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
TELETYPE

JAN 3 1956

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/15/01 BY 6-267 M/S

#919421 EP/LM

FBI NEW ORLEANS

1-3-56

2.48 PM AE

DIRECTOR, FBI.....URGENT

① ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI, IS-X. REBUTEL

DEC. THIRTYONE LAST. L. G. PATTERSON, WHITE MALE, AGE FIFTYNINE  
NATIVE OF ILLINOIS, WHO HAS RESIDED IN MISSISSIPPI SINCE NINETEEN  
TWENTYSEVEN, ADVISED HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL LETTERS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ON SEGREGATION ISSUE, AS WELL AS REGARDING CITIZEN COUNCILS OF MISS.

AND HAS ALSO WRITTEN LETTERS UNDER ASSUMED NAME TO NEWSPAPERS ON  
SAME SUBJECTS. PATTERSON HAS NO INFORMATION EXCEPT WHAT HAS READ  
IN THE NEWSPAPERS REGARDING CITIZENS COUNCIL BRINGING ECONOMIC

PRESSURE TO RUIN ANYONES BUSINESS. CITES SITUATION AT YAZOO CITY,  
MISS., WHICH HE HAS READ ABOUT IN THE NEWSPAPERS, AS AN EXAMPLE.

GIVE  
UNABLE TO ~~RE~~ NAME OF ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN PUT IN FEAR OF LIFE FOR  
VOICING OPINIONS, HOWEVER, STATES EVERYONE KNOWS AT LEAST FOUR MURDERS  
HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN MISS. AS RESULT OF CITIZENS COUNCILS ACTIVITY,  
~~CLAIMS~~

BUT ~~RE~~ THIS IS HIS OPINION FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS. UNABLE TO  
GIVE THEN NAME OF ANY NEGRO WHO HAS BEEN SCARED OR INTIMIDATED BUT

SAYS NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN NAMES OF NEGROS WHO HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR  
NAMES FROM INTEGRATION PETITIONS AND THAT IN HIS OPINION THEY WERE

RECORDED 99 105-34237  
UNDoubtedly INTIMIDATED AND SCARED ~~RE~~ INTO DOING SO. PATTERSON CITES

700 3 1956 5A 28

29 JAN 12 1956

b6  
b7c

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Hellman
Miss Gandy

memos to LV/B  
on ac 1/4/56 CAC  
65 JAN 18 1956

Mr. Belmont

CCW

PAGE TWO

NEWSPAPER STORIES OF REV. MARSH CALLAWAY, DURANT, MISS., BEING DISMISSED FROM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR VOICING HIS OPINION. ALSO CLAIMS REV. JAMES CAMPBELL, PEARL CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH, PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY, RANKIN COUNTY, ~~MISS.~~, WAS CONTACTED BY MEMBERS OF ~~CHURCH~~ AFTER PREACHING A SERMON ON INTEGRATION WHICH DID NOT MEET THEIR APPROVAL, AND HE WAS SO INFORMED. ALSO, STATES-TIMES, JACKSON, MISS. NEWSPAPER, INDICATED WOULD PUBLISH COMMENTS ON CAMPBELL'S SERMON, AFTER WHICH REV. CAMPBELL INFORMED NEWSPAPER IF THEY WOULD NOT ~~PUBLISH~~ PUBLISH SUCH COMMENTS AND WOULD FORGET MATTER, HE WOULD ALSO FORGET IT. PAE PATTERSON CLAIMS ANOTHER METHODIST PREACHER, NAME UNKNOWN AND TOWN UNKNOWN IN NORTHERN MISS., HE ~~AND~~ HEARD LOST HIS CHURCH BECAUE HE VOICED A CONTRARY ~~OPINION~~ OPINION ON SEGREGATION. SOURCE OF ~~INFO~~ ABOVE INFO NOT RECALLED. PATTERSON SAYS ONLY HIS OPINION THAT ALL SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES AND CONGRESSMEN FROM MISS. ARE MEMBERS OF CITIZENS COUNCIL, AS HE DOES NOT THINK THEY COULD BE ELECTED IF THEY WERE NOT MEMBERS. ALSO, FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS, THEY

ARE ALL SUPPORTING CITIZENS COUNCILS AND ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MEMBERS. PATTERSON DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY CITIZENS COUNCIL ORGANIZATION IN HIS OWN COUNTY, RANKIN, BUT UNDERSTANDS ONE IS BEING ORGANIZED. HE HAS NO INFORMATION CONCERNING ECONOMIC PRESSURE BEING APPLIED AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL OR THREAT OF VIOLENCE TO DENY ANY INDIVIDUALS THEIR RIGHTS UNDER U. S. CONSTITUTION.

CHILES

END

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: January 5, 1956

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
 OF MISSISSIPPI<sup>1</sup> (ACCM)  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
 Bufile 105-34237

cc Mr. Boardman  
 Mr. Belmont  
 Mr. Rosen

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Reference is made to my memorandum dated January 4, 1956, copy attached, and more particularly to the addendum added today indicating that New Orleans had been requested to discuss with Memphis the need for interviews with State officers of the above captioned organization. New Orleans had raised the question by type to the Bureau dated December 30, 1955, whether or not executive officials should be interviewed for information concerning the aims and objectives of the organization. New Orleans was instructed this morning to evaluate which officers needed to be interviewed to obtain the desired information and to advise the Bureau what information each such officer would be able to contribute.

At 12:55 today, SAC C. E. Piper of Memphis called in response to the Bureau's telephone call to New Orleans. He advised that he had just discussed this matter with SAC Chiles at New Orleans; that the two SACs have agreed that there is no need at this time to conduct interviews with other specific officers of the organization. SAC Piper pointed out that the Memphis Office has been using Robert B. Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Citizens Councils, as a source of information. He advised that in his capacity as Executive Secretary, Patterson is fully acquainted with the aims, purposes and activities of the organization and has kept the Memphis Office fully advised. It was, therefore, the recommendation of the two SACs that no further interviews be conducted with specific officials of the above-captioned organization.

This is for information. There appears to be no further action in connection with this specific angle of the investigation at this time. Our investigation into the activities of the captioned organization is, of course, continuing at Departmental instructions and is being closely followed in this Division.

JAS:td  
(6)

RECORDED 99  
INDEXED 90

2 JAN 12 1956

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/14/2014 BY 6020V/NL/SEPT/55  
X 918421

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New Orleans (105-587)

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: 1-9-56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/18/01 BY 6247MLSER

105-587-1

JAN 2-1

Re Bureau letter to New Orleans 11-21-55, enclosing a photostat of an article which appeared in the November 11, 1955, edition of the "Evening Star," Washington, D. C., newspaper, concerning the formation of a Citizens Council to protest the assignment of Negro priests in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

New Orleans was requested to advise the Bureau the exact nature and scope of this organization in accordance with Bureau instructions contained in SAC Letter 55-66, dated October 25, 1955.

The attention of the Bureau is directed to the report entitled [redacted]

[redacted] - VICTIM, "CIVIL RIGHTS," of SA SIMS F. REGARD, dated November 11, 1955 at New Orleans. This report contains information concerning the Jesuit Bend, Louisiana, incident.

On Page 5 of this report, Archbishop JOSEPH FRANCIS RUMMEL, who is referred to in the newspaper article of the "Evening Star" was interviewed by Special Agents REGIS L. KENNEDY and SIMS F. REGARD. He stated concerning the incident at Jesuit Bend, that following this incident he had been called upon by a committee from that section of Plaquemines Parish and that he had been adamant in his stand that the parishioners are bound to accept whatever priests are sent them, and that as long as they persisted in opposing the use of a colored priest in religious functions, he would maintain his stand in suspending Catholic services at Jesuit Bend. He stated that the spokesman for the committee calling upon him was [redacted] of LEANDER PEREZ, and he felt that the man moving behind the scenes and directing the whole opposition to [redacted] actions has been LEANDER H. PEREZ.

2 - Bureau

1 - New Orleans (105-587)

RFC:eo  
(3)

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105-587

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Lyt New Orleans

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Letter to Director  
Re: Citizens Councils and States'  
Rights Movement

1-9-56

Special Agents KENNEDY and REGARD advised that during the time that they interviewed Archbishop RUMMEL, he made no mention of receiving any petition. (A petition was described in the "Evening Star" as being circulated by a group of Catholic laymen who formed a Citizens Council to protest assignment of Negro priests.)

With reference to LEANDER H. PEREZ, referred to above, the attention of the Bureau is directed to the report entitled "LEANDER PEREZ, SR.; [REDACTED] - VICTIM; [REDACTED] - VICTIM; [REDACTED] - VICTIM;

VICTIM; [REDACTED] - VICTIM; UNKNOWN VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS," dated December 15, 1955 at New Orleans by SA REGIS L. KENNEDY. This report reflects that PEREZ, District Attorney for Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, was reported to have on December 11, 1954, disrupted a catechism class of children at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Belle Chasse, and to have forced Negro children to walk near the rear of the line from the catechism class to the church. The report reflects that Archbishop RUMMEL advised that all segregation of races was ordered discontinued by him in 1953 in the Catholic Churches.

In view of the fact that the Bureau referred the clipping to this office under the captioned heading, which is a control file of the New Orleans Office, to report a summary of information pertaining to various Citizens Councils and States' Rights Movement, as directed by Bureau letter in captioned case dated October 28, 1955, only a summary of information pertaining to the group of Catholic laymen forming a Citizens Council to protest assignment of Negro priests at Jesuit Bend is being furnished to the Bureau in this letter, and no report is being submitted UACB.

It is pointed out that the activities of the Citizens Council of New Orleans is reported in the New Orleans case so entitled, IS-X, New Orleans File #100-15816. This includes activities of the Citizens Council within the area of Greater New Orleans.

The captioned matter is being closed in this office.

SAC, New Orleans (105-587)

January 19, 1956

b6  
b7C

Director, FBI (105-34237)

RECORDED - 83

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'  
RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Bureau January 9, 1956.

Information concerning the formation of a Citizens Council to protest the assignment of Negro priests in the Archdiocese of New Orleans was furnished you under the caption of this letter, inasmuch as the name of the organization which reportedly was founded, is unknown to the Bureau. In the reference letter you did not furnish the name of this organization; however, it was indicated that an organization has been founded.

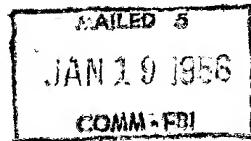
You are instructed to furnish the Bureau promptly the name of this organization and a brief summary of its activities as known to your office. With this information you are instructed to furnish your recommendation as to whether an inquiry should be initiated concerning this group. As an aid in making your determination you are referred to SAC letter 55-66.

CFW:elg  
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DATE 4/19/01 BY 6247NLSEP/LH

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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



PW  
WCT  
CPL

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIR TEL

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI NEW ORLEANS

12/30/55 *JH*

DIRECTOR, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ReBuairtel 12/30/55.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 4/18/01 BY 6167NLS/EP/LS

*91842*

Investigation of captioned matter has resulted in five individuals appearing in New York Post article being interviewed at Yazoo City. Other five no longer living in Yazoo City and leads have been set out to locate and interview per Department instructions. Some of those interviewed report that economic pressure, which they believe Citizens Council responsible for, had been taken against them because they signed a school integration petition, but furnished no evidence as to Citizens Council responsibility.

One individual claimed that Citizens Council member told him that Citizens Council had passed a resolution to put pressure on every Negro who signed petition for integration and registered to vote in Yazoo County. Only other individual present during alleged conversation denies that Citizens Council was mentioned.

The published aims of the Citizens Council as appearing in newspapers, and particularly those of the Citizens Council of Yazoo City, are to preserve and maintain peace and tranquility of the community and are dedicated to maintain segregation of the races while preserving the peace and harmony of the people and the traditions of the South.

AP dispatch datelined Jackson, Mississippi, December 29, 1955, headlines Governor HUGH WHITE branding FBI探者 as a bunch of meddlesome jackasses. Governor WHITE's remarks were in answer to press inquiries relative to Department of Justice announcement in Washington, D. C. that it had launched an investigation of the

ENCL.

- 3 - Bureau (105-34237) {AIR MAIL}
- 2 - Memphis (105-121) {AIR MAIL}
- 1 - New Orleans (105-492)

ZJVL:gp

(6)

Mr. Belmont

Approved: *me*

Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED-2

105-34237-  
2 JAN 12 1956

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Tolson
Mrs. Nichols
Mr. Bardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Waterrowd
Tele. Recm
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

NO #105-492

Citizens Councils in Mississippi, which confirmed a letter by ARTHUR B. CALDWELL, Chief of the Civil Rights Section, to the Jewish Labor Committee in New York City. Same article quotes Attorney General Elect JOE PATTERSON as stating Department of Justice had never attempted to talk to his office about any such investigation, saying, "I think we are as interested in seeing that laws in Mississippi are enforced as is the Department of Justice."

The published aims and purposes of Citizens Councils of Mississippi were previously set out in report of SA GEORGE A. EVERETT, Memphis, Tennessee, dated May 23, 1955. If investigation is full scale on Citizens Councils of Mississippi for purpose of determining whether Citizens Councils of Mississippi is a subversive group to be cited under Executive Order 10450, then Memphis should interview ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary of Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi, Winona, Mississippi, and Memphis and New Orleans should interview all members of State Executive Committee of Association as set out page three of SA EVERETT's report regarding aims and objectives of Council.

Attention of Bureau called to fact investigation of Citizens Council of Mississippi is tantamount to investigating the Democratic Party of Mississippi, as it is alleged the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, both Senators, all Congressmen, as well as State Legislators, principal citizens, including bankers, lawyers, doctors, school teachers, are members or sympathetic with aims and purposes of organization. In this connection, reference is made to Bureau memorandum dated 12/16/55, captioned as above, whereby instructions were issued to this office, "You are instructed to handle this matter most discreetly in order that criticism of the Bureau will be avoided."

Bureau advice requested as to whether Executive Secretary, as well as other members of the State Executive Committee of instant organization should be interviewed regarding this matter. A report on investigation to date is being submitted.

CHILES  
END

GW: MR. RELATION  
AND SENDER  
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

# Citizens Councils Probe Barred

## Activities Checked by Justice Department

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (AP)—The justice department assured a New York group Thursday it is looking into the activities of the white citizens councils in the South.

The councils have been organized to preserve racial segregation in their areas. They developed after the supreme court ruled that segregated public schools are unconstitutional.

The New York city group, the Jewish labor committee, had written Washington with a request for an investigation of the councils.

Warren Olney III, in charge of criminal prosecutions for the department, and Arthur B. Caldwell, chief of its civil rights section, replied:

"The activities of the white citizens councils are receiving the department's careful attention. You may be assured that appropriate measures will be taken should the investigation establish the department's jurisdiction and authority."

Federal laws authorize the department to step in if the authority of public officials or police is used to give the authority of law to any deprivation of civil rights. Ordinarily, the federal government has no power to intervene in activities of private citizens—as contrasted with pub-

lic officials—in relation to civil rights.

The New York Jewish labor committee had made particular reference to the disappearance of Emmet Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, in the August "wolf-whistle" case in Mississippi, the killing of a Negro minister in Mississippi last May and the shooting of still another Negro in Mississippi last month.

The justice department has already said it has no jurisdiction in the Till case. It has been looking into additional cases of reported violence against Negroes.

The citizens councils have stressed a program of opposition to violence, while saying they are determined to keep the Negro and white races separated according to old practices in the South.

Plans were laid in a meeting at Memphis Wednesday to co-ordinate work of the councils with that of other groups with similar aims.

## Justice Department Blasted by White

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 29 (AP)—Gov. Hugh White today called the U.S. Department of Justice a "bunch of meddlesome jackasses" when he learned the agency is keeping close watch on Mississippi citizens councils.

"They can't do anything," he remarked about the federal department

"I'm not very interested. They're just a bunch of meddlesome jackasses."

The Justice Department said today it is investigating whether any federal civil rights laws have been violated by the councils, pro-segregation groups.

Ordinarily the federal government cannot interfere with activities of private citizens in connection with civil rights. But federal law allows the federal government to step in if the authority of public officials or police is used to give authority of law to deprivation of civil rights.

## Kennon Brushes Aside Councils Investigation

SHREVEPORT, La., Dec. 29 (AP)—Gov. Robert Kennon Thursday night brushed aside a Justice Department announcement that it is looking into the activities of white Citizen Councils in the South.

"Louisiana law has provided a well defined policy of segregation," he told reporters. "I do not feel that it is necessary for the governor to comment on outside actions."

"The state always has handled relations between the races in an excellent manner. We have set an outstanding example in that area."

The Justice Department earlier in Washington told the Jewish labor committee that activities of the pro-segregation Citizen Councils, organized in most southern states, "are receiving the department's careful attention."

THE TIMES - PICAYUNE  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
PAGE 15, COL. 1,2,3  
DEC. 30, 1955

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DATE 4/11/81 BY 6426267 WLS 2P/L5m  
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Bureau

ENCLOSURE

## PRO-SEGREGATION SUPPORT SHAPED

### Details of Co-ordination Drive Kept Secret

MEMPHIS, Dec. 29 (UPI)—A drive to coordinate various Southern prosegregation forces into one political voice was whipped into shape Thursday but details were kept under cover.

John U. Barr, New Orleans industrialist who heads the federation for constitutional govern-

ment, declined to elaborate on future plans, other than that the group now seeks financing.

The federation, with the backing of Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.) and Georgia's Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook, formed its co-ordinating group Wednesday night. All conferences were closed to reporters.

#### Sworn to Secrecy—Eastland

A statement issued by Barr said the federation "aims to co-ordinate the efforts of patriotic organizations throughout the nation for protection of constitutional rights."

Sen. Eastland said the some 45 delegates from 12 Southern states were sworn to secrecy and all statements would have to come from Barr. The federation was formed in Jackson, Miss., last Jan. 21-22.

Although the federation does not limit its activity to the South, it was clear main emphasis would be on coordinating efforts of such Southern organizations as the Citizens Councils of Mississippi, the States Rights Council of Georgia and the Committee for Individual Rights in Virginia.

Barr left for New Orleans Thursday night after a "full schedule of conferences."

#### Ready for Work, Barr Says

"We have created our permanent organization and are ready to go to work," he said.

As to operating funds, Barr said "there have been voluntary contributions before, of course, but we haven't spent any of the money because we didn't have the organization set up."

He said initial expenditures will include costs for preparing and distributing literature designed to coordinate activity of already established groups working against racial integration.

The federation's purpose is to co-ordinate, he stressed, and it "will not become a member of these groups."

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THE TIMES PICAYUNE  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
PAGE 32, COL. 1,2  
DEC. 30, 1955

Bureau

ENCLOSURE

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

January 12, 1956

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY [redacted]

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-34237

Reference is made to your memorandum dated November 22, 1955, captioned "The Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi, The American States Rights Association, and the Citizens Councils of Humphreys County, Mississippi - Belzoni Chapter," and your memorandum dated December 2, 1955, captioned "Citizens Council of Humphreys County, Mississippi." Reference is also made to my replies thereto dated November 29, 1955, and December 8, 1955.

There is being furnished you herewith in response to your request one copy of the report of Special Agent George J. A. Everett dated January 7, 1956, at Memphis, Tennessee.

Additional investigation is being conducted in an attempt to obtain a copy of a prepared form for cancellation of voters' registration and to obtain additional information concerning the citizens council in Belzoni, Mississippi. The results of this investigation will be furnished you promptly upon receipt thereof by this Bureau.

Enclosure

RECORDED - 33

100-24777

20 JAN 13 1956

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:dlj

(4)



FBI  
W.C.  
WA  
Ole

JAN 12 1956

F B I

Date: 1/6/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, CHICAGO (100-31619)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE 11/18/01 BY 60247NLS  
914421 EP/LSJ

To: DIRECTOR, FBI

O ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS - X

Re CG Airtel to Director, 1/4/56.

Efforts to locate [REDACTED] at Robbins, Ill., unsuccessful. Officer [REDACTED] Robbins, Ill. PD. contacted on 1/5/56 by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] was unknown to him in Robbins.

[REDACTED] Assistant Postmistress, Robbins, Ill., advised SA [REDACTED] on 1/5/56 that [REDACTED] was unknown to her in Robbins. [REDACTED] stated there has only been one [REDACTED] who has resided in Robbins; a [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Robbins. Inquiries at [REDACTED] reflected that [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] CG. [REDACTED] CG, contacted by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on 1/5/56. She advised that she did not know anybody by the name of [REDACTED] and that they had no relatives residing or who had resided in the Mississippi area. [REDACTED] further advised that she had moved from Robbins approximately 9 months ago. RUC

D. S. HOSTETTER

- 3 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 2 - Memphis (105-121) (REGISTERED)
- 2 - New Orleans (105-492) (REGISTERED)
- 1 - Chicago

WCC:JAG  
(8)

RECORDED - 1210 5-34-57

16 JAN 1956

50 JAN 17 1956

Approved: D. H. Green  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

INT S/AM

F B I

Date:

b6  
b7C

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

AIRTEL

To:

FBI, CHICAGO (100-31619)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/01 BY [signature]

916421

1/4/56

DIRECTOR, FBI (AIR MAIL)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCIL OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS-X  
INTERNAL SECURITY-MISCELLANEOUSRe New Orleans airtel to the Director  
dated December 28, 1955.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Eason  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. Widdowson  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

[redacted] Harvey, Illinois was interviewed by SAS [redacted]

and [redacted] during

his lunch hour on January 3, 1956. [redacted]  
advised he is presently working at Wyman and Gordon  
Steel Company, 147th and Woods, Harvey, Illinois.

*Info needed  
in WO point  
1/6/56  
furnished AFK  
1/1/56 cont*

[redacted] stated he opened a grocery store in Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Mississippi in May, 1954, and was doing a successful business. In July, 1955, ARTHUR BERRY (PH) and JASPER MEAMS (PH) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Yazoo, Mississippi, contacted him with a petition to better the public school system for the colored people in Yazoo County. [redacted] stated that he asked BERRY and MEAMS if the petition was for better schools for the colored children or for integration and BERRY and MEAMS told him it was for

WCC:NAS  
(10)

SF-30

2-Memphis (105-121)(AM)  
2-New Orleans (105-492)(AM)  
2-Springfield(AM)REGISTERED  
U.S. MAILRECORDED  
EX-133

16 JAN 18 1956

15 32 11 11

Mr. Belmont

36 JAN 18 1956  
Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

PAGE TWO:  
From SAC,

To: a better school system and not for integration in Yazoo County. [redacted] stated that he read the petition and it was for a better school system for the colored children in that county.

[redacted] stated that in the latter part of July, 1955, a petition for integration, which contained 52 signers, one of which was [redacted] was published in the "Yazoo Herald." [redacted] stated that he had not signed such a petition and that apparently his name had been taken from the petition given him to be signed by BERRY and MEAMS, which dealt with the improving of school system for colored people in Yazoo County. [redacted] stated that he was not for integration and since the Supreme Court had rendered its recent decision concerning segregation, he would let the Supreme Court make all the decisions for integration, and that he was thoroughly opposed to the particular bill that was published.

[redacted] He stated that he contacted MEAMS and questioned him concerning the petition for integration which was published in the paper, and MEAMS told him that the petition which was published was not the petition which he had sent in or which [redacted] had signed. [redacted] stated that the All White Council, which has offices in every city in Mississippi, stopped the wholesalers and jobbers from servicing his grocery store after the petition was published in the paper.

[redacted] stated that the following people in Yazoo County are, he believes, part of the All White Citizens Council:

[redacted] (PH);  
[redacted] (PH);  
[redacted] (PH), [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Delta National Bank;  
[redacted] (PH), a lawyer.

[redacted] stated that the pressure was put on the jobbers and wholesalers in the middle of August, 1955, and at that time they serviced him no longer.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

PAGE THREE:

To:

[redacted] stated that when he found out about the petition that had been published in the "Yazoo Herald," he had made an affidavit on August 28, 1955, withdrawing his name from the petition.

In about the first part of September, 1955, he went to the Delta National Bank to make a weekly deposit and the girl told him that [redacted] [redacted] would like to see him. [redacted] stated that he went to see [redacted] who in turn called [redacted] Mr. MILLER HOLMES, Senior, who asked [redacted] if he had an account with the Delta National Bank. When [redacted] replied that he did have an account at the bank Mr. MILLER HOLMES, Senior told him that the Delta National Bank could no longer service his account. [redacted] advised that at that time he withdrew his account, not asking why the bank could no longer service him.

[redacted] stated that he depleted the stock in his store, sold his house, and moved to Chicago in the first part of October, 1955.

[redacted] stated that he owns three lots, and the building in which he operated his store in Yazoo County, Mississippi, and that he has heard through various means which he cannot recall, that the All White Council was not going to let anyone rent the store he owns in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

During the interview with [redacted] he advised that [redacted] another Negro who was a signer of the school petition, presently lives in Robbins, Illinois, and works at some chemical factory in Chicago, rather than in Raleigh, Illinois.

[redacted] East Chicago  
Heights, Illinois, was interviewed by SAS [redacted]  
[redacted] and [redacted] during his lunch hour

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,  
PAGE FOUR:

To:

on January 3, 1956. [redacted] advised that he is presently a laborer at the Midwest Forgers in East Chicago Heights, Illinois.

[redacted] stated that JASPER MEAMS (PH) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Yazoo, Mississippi, had contacted his wife with regard to signing a petition for better schools for colored children in that county, and it was published as a petition for integration in the "Yazoo Herald" in the latter part of July, 1955.

[redacted] stated in the early part of August, 1955, [redacted] of the Mc Graw Lumber Company, Yazoo City, Yazoo County, Mississippi, told him to have his wife draw up an affidavit withdrawing her name from the petition at the Delta National Bank.

[redacted] stated that his wife went to the Delta National Bank to have an affidavit drawn up and that they told her it would not make any difference, and that there was no use of filing the affidavit at this time.

[redacted] stated that he had been refused the sale of groceries from the A. & P. Food Store in Yazoo, Mississippi. He stated that they had a list of the 52 signers and that when anyone of the signers attempted to purchase groceries they would refuse the sale to that particular person.

[redacted] stated in the latter part of August, 1955, [redacted] of the Mc Graw Lumber Company, called him in and told him that he hated to let him go after [redacted] years of service, but that he was going

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following message via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC,

PAGE FIVE:

To:

| to have to fire him. [redacted] stated that at that time, since he could not get food or a job in Mississippi, he decided to come to Chicago and stay with his brother. [redacted] stated that during the weekend of December 31, 1955, he took his wife and family back to Yazoo County, Mississippi, to their home, and that he had talked to [redacted]  
[redacted] and [redacted] had told him that the council was going to have a meeting on January 10, 1955, to try to correct or disband the council and get the people that had left the area to come back and accept their old positions in the community.

[redacted] stated that he believes the follows are members of the All White Citizens Council in Yazoo:

[redacted]  
FNU [redacted] (PH) a lawyer;  
FNU [redacted] (PH) of Hester Auto Parts.

[redacted] further stated that when either a man or his wife sign a petition, they were both considered as signers of the petition.

| During the above interviews with [redacted] and [redacted] both advised that they had not been threatened with acts of violence and knew of no such threats in regard to the other individuals whose names were reflected on the integration petition mentioned above, and who ultimately left Yazoo County, Mississippi.

The Chicago office should be advised if signed statements should be obtained from [redacted] and [redacted]

The Chicago office will attempt to locate and interview [redacted] at Robbins, Illinois.

HOSTETTER

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

SAC, Memphis (105-121)

January 13, 1956

Director, FBI (105-34237)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Rerep of Special Agent George A. Everett dated January 7, 1956, at Memphis. Reference is also made to report of Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, dated January 6, 1956.

Copies of referenced reports have been disseminated by the Bureau to G-2, ONI and OSI in addition to the Department. You are instructed to disseminate copies of these reports to local intelligence agencies. Both reports have been declassified inasmuch as they contain no information which should be classified "Confidential." You are instructed to declassify your copies accordingly.

In addition it is desired that you refrain in the future from including in reports concerning captioned organization any information relative to requests made by the Department for investigation.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/1/01 BY SP/LS/EP/LM  
91842

RECORDED - 15

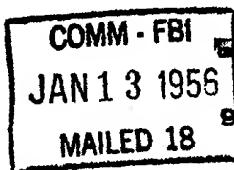
105-34237-168

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:dlj

(4)

EX-121



JAN 17 1956

2831K  
WATK  
OLH

60 JAN 18 1956

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 1/13/56

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (105-12445)

SAC  
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS - X

OO: Memphis

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/14/03 BY 60267MLS

914421 2011-2

Re Memphis letter 1/7/56, instructing the NYO to locate and interview GUS COURTS through headquarters of the NAACP in NYC. ROY WILKINS, NAACP, 20 West 40th Street, New York, NY, on 1/13/56, advised that GUS COURTS is not in NYC but believed to be temporarily staying in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. WILKINS was not able to furnish the exact address of COURTS in Jackson. He suggested, however, that Mr. EVERAS MEDGAR, State Secretary of the NAACP in Jackson, would be in a position to furnish the present address of GUS COURTS. Mr. WILKINS further suggested that EVERAS MEDGAR be telephonically contacted either at his office (JACKSON 3-6906) or at his home (JACKSON 5-0492) and be advised that the contact was being made at the suggestion of Mr. WILKINS.

The New Orleans Office is requested to locate and contact GUS COURTS and obtain from him the information requested by the Memphis Office as set forth in relet, a copy of which is being forwarded to New Orleans as an enclosure.

For the additional information of the New Orleans Office, it is noted that the Buffalo Division interviewed [redacted] Buffalo, NY, on 1/9/56. [redacted] had no knowledge or recollection of a slip of paper such as described in relet. He denied receiving anything from [redacted] and likewise denied passing any item on to GUS COURTS. [redacted] did recall, however, that in about April, 1955, three different items were found at the [redacted] Belzoni, Miss., described as follows:

1. A list of voters which was found by [redacted] in the shirt pocket of [redacted] believes [redacted] indicated she was going to return this to [redacted]

- 2-Bureau (105-34237) (RM)
- 2-Memphis (105-121) (RM)
- 2-New Orleans (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 1-New York (105-12445)

FJG:jg  
(7)

RECORDED - 19

INDEXED - 19  
EX-126105-34237-169  
11 JAN 18 1956

5 JAN 19 1956

INSP

Letter to the Director  
NY 105-12445

2. A list of those individuals who had paid poll taxes in the jurisdiction of Belzoni, Miss., found by another worker named [redacted]

3. Another list of those paying poll taxes in the same jurisdiction. [redacted] found this list himself in a basket of laundry and gave it to [redacted]. He is not aware of [redacted] disposition. RUC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted] b6  
Mr. [redacted] b7C  
Tele. Room [redacted]  
Mr. [redacted]  
Miss [redacted]

AIR TEL

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI NEW ORLEANS

January 6, 1956

DIRECTOR, FBI

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY 6082

ON 3/15/72 LEO

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

b7D

6

[redacted] in strictest confi-  
dence advised SA's LAURENCE J. FRANK, Jr., and [redacted] of  
the Jackson Resident Agency that [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] furnished the above information because of his b7D  
high regard for the Bureau, at the same time [redacted]

[redacted] Bureau  
is, therefore, requested to see that [redacted] identity and confi-  
dence are protected.

Bureau's attention is also directed to the possibility that  
the statistical accomplishments of the Bureau will undoubtedly be  
seriously impaired if such instructions issued to the [redacted] are b7D  
carried out.

RECORDED - 71

105-34237-170

CHILES  
END

3 - Bureau (105-34237) (REGISTERED-AIRMAIL)

1 - New Orleans (105-492)

ZJVL:bs/gp

(4) Mr. Belmont

CC: MR. BELMONT  
AND SUPERVISOR  
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

Approved: *me*

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

AIR TEL  
|||||

FBI NEW ORLEANS

DIRECTOR, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]

January

56

DECLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] 60080  
ON 3/15/77 LED/CJS

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in strictest confidence advised SA's LAWRENCE J. FRANK, Jr., and  
the Jackson Resident Agency that [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[REDACTED] furnished the above information because [REDACTED] high regard for the Bureau, at the same time [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is, therefore, requested to see that [REDACTED] Bureau  
[REDACTED] identity and so  
[REDACTED] dence are protected.

b7D

[REDACTED] Bureau's attention is also directed to the possibility t  
the statistical accomplishments of the Bureau will undoubtedly  
seriously impaired if such instructions issued to the [REDACTED] are  
carried out.

CHILES  
END

3 - Bureau (105-34237) (REGISTERED-AIRMAIL)  
1 - New Orleans (105-492  
ZJVL:bs/gp  
(4)

ORIGINAL—DIRECTOR

3025  
RECEIVED

b6  
b7C

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

b6  
b7C

January 17, 1956

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/1/03 BY 60247 NSP/

915421

LNK

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 9, 1955, with which you furnished a Photostat of an article captioned "The Victims" which recently appeared in the "New York Post." You requested that the individuals mentioned in that article be interviewed for information in their possession concerning captioned organization and its alleged uses of economic pressure. Reference is also made to my memorandum dated January 11, 1956.

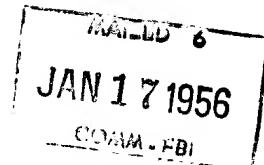
There is being furnished you herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 6, 1956, at Indianapolis concerning the captioned organization, which contains the results of an interview with Charlie Ryan, one of the individuals named in the article entitled "The Victims."

Efforts are being made to locate and interview [redacted]. The results of this interview will be furnished you promptly upon receipt thereof.

Enclosure

RECORDED-82

105-34237-171



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:dae  
(4)

71 JAN 20 1956

71 JAN 20 1956

AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/1/01 BY 6021N/NSSEPILSY

919421

FBI NEW ORLEANS

1-17-56

DIRECTOR FBI

AIR MAIL

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS-X

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau airtel 1-10-56, re captioned matter, which referred to Indianapolis airtel setting out additional names of residents of Yazoo City, Mississippi, who had been subject to economic pressure by "Peoples Committee of Yazoo City" as reported by CHARLIE RYAN.

The individuals referred to have been identified as follows:

1. [redacted] Cafe & Grocery Owner, Yazoo City, Mississippi. RYAN identified this individual as [redacted] and claimed that he was forced to close out his business. [redacted] present address is [redacted] Holland, Ohio, and he is employed by [redacted] between Holland and Toledo, Ohio.

2. [redacted] Grocery Store owner, Yazoo City, Miss., who according to RYAN was forced to discontinue his business. RYAN identified this individual as [redacted] LNU. His present address is [redacted] Harvey, Illinois, and has been interviewed by Chicago Office.

(3) - Bureau (105-34237) (AM)  
1 - Memphis (105-121 (AM)  
2 - Chicago (100-31619) (AM)  
2 - Cleveland (AM)  
1 - New Orleans (105-492)

RECORDED-90  
INDEXED-90  
105-34237-172

7 JAN 19 1956

LJF:eo  
(9)

66 JAN 22 1956

INT 6021

Airtel to Bureau, et al  
Re: Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi

1-17-56

3. [REDACTED] farmer, Yazoo City, Mississippi, who according to RYAN was forced to sell a store he owned to white tenant because tenant informed that he could no longer pay [REDACTED] rent because of the desegregation incident. [REDACTED] presently residing [REDACTED] Chicago, Illinois, with daughter [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED] U. S. P. O., Yazoo City, Mississippi, was located and interviewed.

For the information of the Cleveland Office, the Department has requested that investigation be conducted to determine if the ~~Citizens~~ Council of Yazoo City, Mississippi, has through group action advocated or approved the use of economic sanctions against these negroes who signed the petition for the integration of the schools in Yazoo City, Mississippi, which petition was submitted to the school board on August 6, 1955.

Those interviewed should be informed that the investigation is being conducted at the request of the AG in charge of the Internal Security Division of the Department.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] For the further information of Cleveland, [REDACTED] is the husband of [REDACTED] who did sign the petition, but [REDACTED] apparently did not. [REDACTED] has been contacted at Yazoo City, Mississippi, and refused to make any statement upon advice of counsel.

Cleveland should contact [REDACTED] and if he has any information concerning captioned matter, a written statement should be obtained.

Airtel to Bureau, et al  
Re: Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi

1-17-56

Chicago is requested to contact [redacted] and obtain signed statement concerning any information he may have indicating Citizens' Council of Yazoo City, Mississippi, has used economic pressure against those who signed the school integration petition. In addition to the above information furnished by RYAN, [redacted] was reportedly referred to in an anonymous letter written to JASPER MIMS, Treasurer of NAACP, along with [redacted] instructing them to get themselves ready to meet "the Lord." [redacted] reportedly was also unable to buy butane gas after his name appeared on the school petition.

It is also requested that Chicago make further efforts to locate [redacted] at Robbins, Illinois. Further inquiry at Yazoo City, Mississippi, among his wife and relatives failed to indicate any further address for him other than Robbins, Illinois.

The Bureau has instructed that this matter should be given prompt attention and the results expeditiously furnished.

CHILES.

END.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, ATLANTA

DATE:

January 10, 1956

FROM : DIRECTOR, FBI

SUBJECT:

*Classification of Reports Concerning Klan and Prosegregation Organizations*

**CLASSIFICATION OF REPORTS CONCERNING  
KLAN AND PROSEGREGATION ORGANIZATIONS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X**

Numerous reports recently submitted concerning Klan and prosegregation organizations have been classified when no classification was necessary, or have not been classified when they should have been. This situation requires considerable correspondence otherwise unnecessary and must be corrected.

The Bureau cannot set out a rule for the classification of reports which will cover every conceivable situation. Each report must be considered individually on the basis of the data contained therein, and a determination made as to whether any information in the report should be classified.

Executive Order 10501 (copies of which were furnished all field offices with SAC Letter 53-79) contains instructions relating to the classification of material, and supervisory and agent personnel of your office involved in the submission of reports of this type should thoroughly familiarize themselves with its contents.

2cc - Baltimore  
 2cc - Birmingham  
 2cc - Charlotte  
 2cc - Dallas  
 2cc - Houston  
 2cc - Kansas City  
 2cc - Knoxville  
 2cc - Little Rock

2cc - Memphis  
 2cc - Miami  
 2cc - Mobile  
 2cc - New Orleans  
 2cc - Norfolk  
 2cc - Oklahoma City  
 2cc - Richmond  
 2cc - Savannah  
 2cc - Washington Field

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/16/01 BY 602W/MAS/PLM

100-106637  
FBI - ATLANTA  
JAN 12 1956

*Letter to SAC, Atlanta*

*If a decision regarding the classification of a report cannot be reached, that report should be forwarded to the Bureau by cover letter requesting Bureau advice; however, this action should be necessary only on infrequent occasions.*

January 12, 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BOARDMAN  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. ROSEN  
MR. NICHOLS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/07 BY 60267 NASEPL/HM  
918412

In conference with the Attorney General this morning, I discussed with him the conversation which Mr. Dillon Anderson, intelligence adviser to the President, had with me several days ago concerning the briefings of the National Security Council and the Cabinet, the former on subversive activities in this hemisphere and the latter on the problem of civil rights in the South with particular reference to the Citizens' Councils which have been set up.

The Attorney General stated it was his intention at an early meeting of the Cabinet to present to the Cabinet his proposed Civil Rights legislation and that at that time he would desire me to be present and to brief the Cabinet upon the situation in the South as it dealt with the Civil Rights problem with particular reference to the difficulties which we have had in our investigations of the Citizens' Councils and any other matters that would be pertinent to this over-all problem.

In regard to the National Security Council briefing on subversive activities and the espionage activities of the Soviet Government in this hemisphere, the Attorney General stated that as previously indicated he thought I should give a comprehensive briefing on this matter and he understood that this would be held at a reasonably early date. He stated it might be in February or earlier.

As I previously indicated, I desire that comprehensive memorandum briefs be prepared for my use on both of these occasions.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichole \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Famm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrrow \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Bio for on \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

**John Edgar Hoover  
Director**

~~105-36127~~  
~~NOT RECORDED~~  
145 JAN 16 1956

SENT FROM D. O.  
TIME 3:30 PM  
DATE 1-12-36  
BY 282

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 1/6/55

FROM : SAC, New Orleans (105-492)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF  
MISSISSIPPI

IS-X

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/10/10 BY 602UNNS~~~~916121 81MM~~

For the information of the Bureau, there is forwarded herewith a photostatic copy of an item which appeared in the November, 1955 issue of the publication "The Southerner" and which was furnished New Orleans by the Atlanta Division. "The Southerner" being published in Dalton, Georgia.

[redacted] stated in an interview with SA [redacted] at Greenville, Mississippi, July 27, 1951, that several years prior to that time he had been employed in New York City by a "left wing front organization", the [redacted] and also formerly worked for the [redacted] in New York. He admitted that he was previously a member of the Communist Political Association, and that he was more or less expelled when he adhered to the opinions expressed by EARL BROWDER and was accused of being a "Deviationist".

[redacted] stated he was still on the mailing list of a number of front groups and was periodically contacted by various members of such organizations for his assistance, which he claimed he refused. He mentioned that he was contacted by the Civil Rights Congress in the Spring of 1951, in an effort to engage his support in the campaign then being waged in behalf of WILLIE McGEE, convicted Negro, who was subsequently executed for the crime of rape.

In the course of a SECURITY-OF-GOVERNMENT-EMPLOYEES investigation of [redacted] conducted in June and July, 1953, the persons listed below, all of whom were covered by "T" symbols in the report, offered the following observations regarding [redacted]

Jackson, Mississippi:

[redacted] INDEXED - 64 RECORDED - 64 105-34237-173  
 [redacted] had recently stated, during the course of a talk which informant had with him, that when he was young, he was a member of the Communist Party and went to the East. The place in the East was not named, but informant thought it to be New York.  
 ENC.(1)

PGT: efs

(4)

2 - Bureau (ENC.1) (K.M.)  
 1 - NO 100-137799  
 1 - NO 105-492

1961 JAN 9 1955

1/31/55  
 JMK

INT

NO 105-492

[redacted] further stated that while in the East, the Communist Party wanted him to come back to the South to organize Negroes.

After getting back to Mississippi, [redacted] realizing the Communist Party was just using him and that he could not do what was asked of him, but would make a fool of himself, decided he would quit and left the Communist Party.

Informant received the impression that [redacted] was just talking to impress him.  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] had recently told him that he, [redacted] had been a member of the Communist Party at one time, but stated he was young at the time and he "knew better now".  
[redacted]

[redacted] is a "big talker", always trying to take sides in every matter. He is a man who can not be trusted and who will take any side of an issue for a little publicity or money. He appears to be a trouble maker and agitator.  
[redacted]

[redacted] is a "screwyball" and an individual of poor character and reputation. He would do anything to get a little prestige or publicity.

In the same investigation, [redacted] who requested his identity be concealed, advised as follows on August 26, 1953:

[redacted] claims to have been a member of the Communist Party. He also states that he had held socialist views since he was twelve years old. [redacted] has admitted that he will associate himself with any group which he feels might help him to gain power and position for himself. [redacted] is given to

NO 105-492

false statements in his conversation in order to impress his listeners. He has a brilliant mind in some respects, but lacks common sense.

[redacted] was the subject of an [redacted] in 1954. Under date of January 26, 1954, he wrote and sent through the mails a letter addressed to [redacted] Jackson, Mississippi, wherein [redacted] threatened to [redacted] at [redacted] Jackson. Prosecution was denied because of [redacted]

In connection with that investigation, [redacted] made available the following medical report concerning [redacted]

"SUMMARY:

[redacted]  
"Continued treatment on an out-patient basis is recommended.

"Diagnosis: [redacted]

"Test Results:

"The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory was administered upon four different occasions [redacted]

b6  
b7c

NO 105-492

1. **What is the primary purpose of the study?**

"Date  
1-8-54

Patient's Last Name-First Name-Middle Name    Register No.    Ward No.

**ANSWER** **1** **2** **3** **4**

35

VAC, Jackson, Miss.

## "Rorschach Inkblots revealed"

10. The following table summarizes the results of the study. The first column lists the variables, the second column lists the sample size, and the third column lists the estimated effect sizes.

### "Thematic Apperception test results revealed

\_\_\_\_\_

### "Observations:

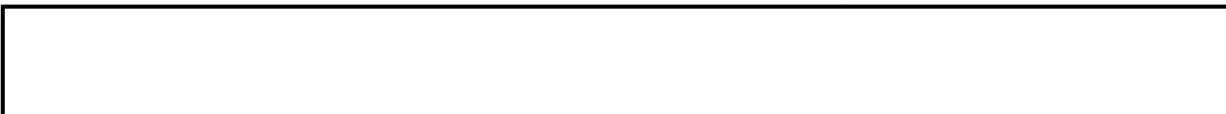
"This patient had been known to the examiner on an outpatient basis prior to this hospitalization, during which he was interviewed almost daily and sometimes twice daily by the psychologist.

For more information about the study, please contact Dr. [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

"Throughout these contacts the patient was pleasant and very cooperative with the psychologist.

10. The following table summarizes the results of the study.

NO 105-492



It is assumed that Atlanta, Office of Origin in the case entitled, "THE SOUTHERNER - IS-C", has provided the Bureau with a characterization of that paper.

TO: BUREAU

FROM: NEW ORLEANS

RE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS OF NEW  
ORLEANS IS-X

BUFILE: (105-34237)

NO. (105-492)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/18/01 BY CO/AMW/SB/P/HM  
X 918421  
*on envelope*  
*4/18/01 BY CO/AMW/SB/P/HM*

JJ

105-34237-1

# SOUTHERN PLOWBOY

Speaks



BUFORD

W.

POSEY

E. O. Spencer, Owner, Walthall Hotel, Jackson, Miss., is the SOLE dispenser of ALL Republican federal patronage for the entire State of Mississippi. He is the only man in the Nation who has complete control of patronage for an entire State.

Mr. Spencer is fond of boasting of this enormous amount of power and proudly explains that it is a result of his close friendship with President Eisenhower and Attorney General Brownell.

Spencer has often been a White House guest and has spent many weeks ends at Brownell's home in New York and Washington.

His name E. O. Spencer permits his private office (Room 201 in the Walthall Hotel to be used as Hinds County Headquarters to the White Citizens Council, an organization founded for the purpose of priving his fellow Americans of their rights guaranteed under our Federal Constitution. Therefore, to well informed people it comes as no surprise that local federal law-enforcement officers have made no attempts to investigate or check the racial incidents in the State of Mississippi.

After all, the most powerful Republican politician in the State is himself a leading member of the White Citizens Council which is promoting this terror. Certainly the morals and ethics as currently being practiced by Eisenhower and Brownell by their continuing support of a man like Spencer indicates that the leadership in Washington, D. C., has reached an all-time low in gutter politics. I wonder what would have happened if FDR had had as his personal guest at the White House stag lingers the Chief of the Ku Klux Klan. If this had happened then surely the nation's press would have howled long and loud. However, not a single newspaper has protested Eisenhower's and Brownell's close personal friendship with E. O. Spencer.

The White Citizen's Council of Mississippi now has 60,000 members).

THE SOUTHERNER  
DALTON, GEORGIA  
NOVEMBER, 1955  
PAGE 6 COL. 6&7

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/16/03 BY SP/ML/MS  
914H21

105-34237-123

EL1 - 1, E2, 2, E - 501

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/1/10 BY 60217NLS/EP/LWJ  
9/14/02

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY COAM/NNSBP(LM)  
418421

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

January 13, 1956

100-34473-13  
Director, FBI

INDEXED - 6A  
RECORDED - 6A

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/5/01 BY 6-2W7NLS

918421 2PMM

There is enclosed for your information a Photostat of an item which appeared in the November, 1955, issue of "The Southerner," which publication is published in Dalton, Georgia.

This item, which is entitled "Southern Plowboy Speaks," was written by Buford W. Posey. It states that E. O. Spencer, owner, Valhalla Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi, boasts of his close friendship with the Attorney General and that Spencer is the sole dispenser of all Republican Federal patronage for the entire State of Mississippi.

For your information, the files of this Bureau reflect that [redacted]

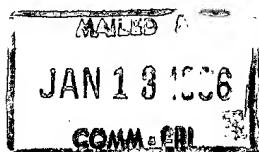
The files of this Bureau reflect that the stated aims of "The Southerner" are freedom and rights with justice for all regardless of race, creed, sex or color. The publication claims it is strictly independent as to politics and religion and is not an organ for any political party. For your additional information, this Bureau conducted an investigation concerning [redacted]

[redacted] for possible violation of the [redacted] the results of which were furnished in report form as an enclosure to my memorandum to Assistant Attorney General Alexander H. Campbell dated January 11, 1959, captioned [redacted] Unknown Subjects; [redacted]

Enclosure

JHK:dae  
(4)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



JAN 23 1956

b6  
b7C

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McClelland \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. H. T. man \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Candy \_\_\_\_\_

F B I

Date: 1/9/56

Transmit the following message via AIR-TEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, Buffalo

To: Director, FBI (105-34237)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

IS - X

OO: Memphis

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/10 BY [redacted] NM/LS

Re Memphis letter to Director 1/7/56.

[redacted] now residing [redacted]  
Buffalo, N. Y. interviewed 1/9/56 by SA ARTHUR F. HODGENS.  
States he has no knowledge or recollection of slip of paper  
such as described in relet. Recalls that in about April 1955,  
three different written items were found at the [redacted]  
Belzoni, Miss., described as follows: Item #1 - a list of  
voters which was found by [redacted] in the shirt pocket of  
[redacted]. Believes [redacted] indicated she was going to  
return this to [redacted]. Item #2 - a list of those individuals  
who had paid poll taxes in the jurisdiction of Belzoni, Miss.  
found by another worker named [redacted] does  
not know circumstances under which this was found, nor does  
he know disposition; Item #3 - another list of those paying  
poll taxes in the same jurisdiction, said list containing only  
Negro names. [redacted] found this list himself in a basket of  
laundry and consequently is unable to identify source. Further  
states he gave it to [redacted] and not aware of [redacted] dis-  
position. Believes [redacted] still residing in Belzoni. [redacted]  
denies receiving anything from [redacted] and likewise denies  
passing any item on to GUS COURTS.

RUC.

③ - Bureau (105-34237) (AM, REGISTERED)  
2 - Memphis (105-121) (AM, REGISTERED)  
1 - New York (INFO) (AM, REGISTERED)  
1 - Buffalo (105-586)

RECORDED - 121/65-34237

AFH:jeb 5511  
(7) Mr. Belmont

Approved: [Signature] Sent: [Signature] M Per: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

80  
JAN 10 1956

INT 100  
CFW

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

January 19, 1956

105-34237-174

Director, FBI

RECORDED - 121

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X  
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/14/03 BY USAMRML/MSER

919421

hkm

Reference is made to your memoranda dated November 22, 1955, and December 2, 1955, wherein you requested specific investigation be conducted in the vicinity of Belzoni, Mississippi, relative to the captioned organization. Reference is also made to my replies thereto dated November 29, 1955, December 8, 1955, and January 12, 1956.

With my memorandum of January 12, 1956, you were furnished a copy of the report of Special Agent George A. Everett dated January 7, 1956, at Memphis, Tennessee, concerning the captioned organization.

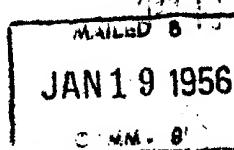
On page six of the report of Special Agent Everett information is set forth indicating that [redacted] who worked at the Belzoni Dry Cleaners, has knowledge of a printed form authorizing cancellation of a voter's registration.

[redacted] who now resides at [redacted] Buffalo, New York, was interviewed on January 9, 1956, and stated he has no knowledge or recollection of a slip of paper which could be described as a form used in canceling a voter's registration. He recalled that in about April, 1955, [redacted] found in the shirt pocket of [redacted] a list of voters. [redacted] indicated she was going to return this list to [redacted] according to [redacted] found a list of individuals who had paid poll taxes in the jurisdiction of Belzoni, Mississippi; however, he could not recall the circumstances under which this list was found nor does he know of its disposition.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:dae  
(4)

88 JAN 23 1956



88 JAN 23 1956  
C 23 64.20  
C 4 M. 8  
FBI

abn  
JF  
WCA  
OAK

Letter to Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

[redacted] said he himself found a list of the names of individuals paying poll taxes in the same jurisdiction but is unable to identify the source. [redacted] said he gave this list to [redacted] and is otherwise unaware of its disposition. [redacted] denied passing any items on to Gus Courts.

The above is being furnished you for your information. Additional inquiries are being made in an attempt to locate one of the printed forms utilized in cancellation of a voter's registration. The results of these attempts will be furnished you promptly.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*MLG*  
*2/2*

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New Orleans

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS-X

OO: MEMPHIS

DATE: 1-19-56

*BC*

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau 1-3-56, containing results of interview with L. G. PATTERSON, wherein PATTERSON stated that an unknown Methodist preacher had lost his church because he voiced a contrary opinion on segregation.

Mr. PATTERSON has now written this office that he believed the name of this Methodist minister is [redacted] (phonetic). He did not know the location of this minister, but suggested that Bishop MARVIN A. FRANKLIN of Jackson, Mississippi, who is the Bishop of all Methodist churches in the Jackson area, be contacted for information on the incident regarding Reverend [redacted] losing his church.

In view of the negative information previously furnished by L. G. PATTERSON, this office does not propose to contact Bishop FRANKLIN, UACB.

2 - Bureau (105-34237)  
1 - New Orleans (105-492)  
ZJVL:eo  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/07 BY [signature]  
(91642)

EX-122

RECORDED - 76 / 105-34237-175  
INDEXED - 76

6 JAN 20 1966

HANDED BY  
STOP DESK  
1/24  
Gm

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 1/3/56

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (105- )

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/16/01 BY 6-24-NLSEP/L57SUBJECT: WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL  
IS-X

916421

(S) 11-1

*ff*  
 On 12/27/55, ARTHUR ALEXANDER CHAPIN advised United States Attorney RAYMOND DEL TUFO, JR. that he had received a threatening telephone call on the night of 12/26/55.

On 12/27/55, CHAPIN was interviewed by SA'S NEWELL S. IRWIN and [redacted] at his residence, 443 Franklin Place, Montclair, N.J.

CHAPIN advised that the aforementioned telephone call was received by him about 10:30 P.M. on 12/26/55. The caller did not identify himself and advised CHAPIN that he was a representative of the WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL, Essex County, N.J. Chapter. The caller also advised that the instant organization is currently operating in N.J. with headquarters in the vicinity of Cambridge, N.J.

The threatening call was as follows:

"We are aware of your activities and we will take care of you and your activities."

CHAPIN is currently Human Relations Office Director of the N.J. State CIO with offices on High Street, Newark, N.J. CHAPIN related during the interview that the WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL is believed by him to be a relatively new organization, having been established recently in Jackson, Miss. under the direction of an individual by the name of (FNU) PATTERSON. CHAPIN stated that he was not aware that this organization actually existed in N.J. until he received the above-mentioned telephone call.

An extortion case entitled "UNKNOWN SUBJECT: Representative of WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY; ARTHUR ALEXANDER CHAPIN - Victim, EXTORTION" is being opened in the Newark Office and a report will be submitted under that caption.

2 - Bureau (Reg. Mail)  
 1 - Newark (105- ) INDEXED-20  
 BW:rk  
 (3) 1-D INDEXED-20

105-3393  
 105-34237-176  
 27 JAN 5 1956

INT S

Re: to Newark  
 33rd May, 1956.

Letter to DIRECTOR, FBI  
NK 105-

On 12/28/55, USA DEL TUFO advised that he desired any information available to the Bureau concerning the WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL inasmuch as he would like to be acquainted with any developments concerning possible Civil Rights violations within the state of N.J.

A search of the Newark Office indices failed to reflect any reference to the subject organization.

CHAPIN is the subject of Newark file 100-36179 captioned "ARTHUR CHAPIN, SECURITY MATTER - C." A review of this file shows that ARTHUR CHAPIN is a Negro, has been active in union affairs, in 1945 was reportedly very sympathetic to the COMMUNIST PARTY line, and has been active in the NAACP and various Civil Rights groups.

Page four of the New Jersey Afro-American newspaper dated 2/12/49 contained an article from Vineland, N.J. which stated that ARTHUR CHAPIN of Newark, who was then state CIO Civil Liberties Director, said that he stopped at the Modern Restaurant in Vineland and East Streets to buy a meal and was told by the waiter that he could purchase the meal but he would not be allowed to eat it on the premises because colored persons are refused that service.

The article went on to say that CHAPIN then went to the police station and filed a charge against the proprietor of the restaurant.

The Newark Office is opening a case under the subject caption and will make inquiries regarding the subject organization in accordance with instructions contained in SAC letter 55-66 Part E, dated 10/25/55 and captioned "CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS - INTERNAL SECURITY-X." The Bureau will be kept advised.

With regard to USA DEL TUFO's request, the Bureau is requested to advise the Newark Office of any information in the Bureau files regarding the subject organization and whether or not DEL TUFO can be furnished a summary of that information by this office as well as any information which might be developed on the organization's activities in N.J.

SAC, Memphis

January 23, 1956

Director, FBI (105-34237)

D  
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

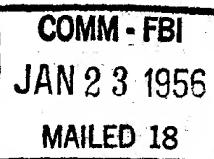
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/15/01 BY 403 WML/STP  
91642) KTM

Q7  
Reference is made to Bureau telephone call to ASAC C. O. Halter on January 18, 1956, at which time instructions were issued to discontinue investigation of the captioned organization. The Memphis Office was instructed to advise telephonically the New Orleans Office and other offices in which leads were outstanding to likewise discontinue this investigation. Memphis was also instructed to submit a report immediately containing the results of the investigation to date and to advise New Orleans to submit immediately a report in this matter.

Memphis was advised to continue to follow the activities of this organization through established sources and contacts and to advise New Orleans of the Bureau's desires in this matter. In this connection, Memphis and New Orleans are instructed to adhere to the instructions set forth in SAC Letter 55-66. Reports concerning the results of limited inquiries should be submitted at least every forty-five days and more frequently if necessary. Of course, the Bureau should be kept advised on a day-to-day basis of all pertinent developments in connection with this organization and the racial situation.

It is reiterated that the Bureau desires no active open investigations be conducted concerning the captioned organization.

2cc - New Orleans



NOTE ON YELLOW:

Telephone call made by Section Chief Fred Baumgardner, 6:05 p.m., January 18, 1956.

CFW:dae:dls dlf  
(6)

50 JAN 26 1956

RECORDED 105-34237-  
8 JAN 24 1956

SAC, NEWARK

January 18, 1956

105-34237-176  
DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

RECORDED *DW*

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY 6247 NLS

91842 EP/254

Bullet dated January 3, 1956, captioned "White Citizens Council, Internal Security - X," in which you advised that United States Attorney Del Tufo advised that he desired any information available concerning the White Citizens Council, inasmuch as he would like to be acquainted with any developments concerning possible civil rights violations within the State of New Jersey.

United States Attorney Del Tufo may be advised that the captioned organization was formed in July, 1954, in Indianola, Mississippi, for the purpose of maintaining segregation in public schools in opposition to the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954. This organization, which is state-wide, claims 253 chapters in Mississippi with over 60,000 members. Its stated aims are to maintain states' rights and segregation through peaceful and nonviolent means.

United States Attorney Del Tufo should also be advised that the Department has been furnished considerable information relative to this organization should additional data be requested by him.

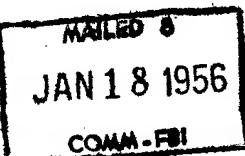
For the information of the Newark Office, Memphis is origin in this matter.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Newark has previously furnished information relative to this matter. The file number shown on the incoming attached is incorrect and should be as above.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:mag



Wet

6/6

1 - Bufile 100-415

ction tickler

Original and copy  
1 - Yellow file copy  
January 24, 1956

SAC, Memphis

Director, FBI (105-34237)

*U*  
**CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'  
RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X**

It has been brought to the Bureau's attention that there is a publication entitled "The Southern School News" being published in Nashville, Tennessee. The publisher and address are unknown to the Bureau.

It is requested that your office make arrangements to discreetly obtain two copies of each issue of this publication and forward them to the Bureau by routing slip marked to the attention of the Central Research Section. This publication should be handled in accordance with the instructions contained in SAC Letter No. 54-74 dated December 28, 1954.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/15/2014 BY C.I.A./NLS/EP/LH

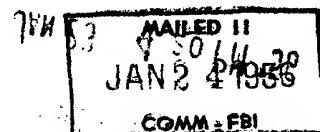
9/8/421

*for Oklahoma Department released  
copy previously furnished advising  
Department has copy at Subversives  
and does not need Bureau to do so.  
copy. Copies  
being retained  
Dec 17/56*  
NOTE: [REDACTED] of the Internal Security Section is interested in receiving this publication on a regular basis and will forward one copy to the Department of Justice. The price of a subscription is unknown.

RECORDED - 3

105-34237-78

EX. - 124



50 JAN 27 1956

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Main \_\_\_\_\_  
Wandy \_\_\_\_\_

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-415-78 - ✓

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 24, 1956

DRAFT  
SAC, BirminghamALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/15/16 BY 621mws/SP

918421 Lm

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES!  
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ATTENTION: CENTRAL RESEARCH SECTION

Re Bureau routing slip dated 1/20/56, and Bulet to Memphis, 12/6/55.

As far as can be ascertained through established sources, the White Citizens Councils in the Birmingham area have not issued any literature to date. [REDACTED] of unknown reliability, has advised that White Citizens Councils plan to publish regularly a bulletin in the near future. In the event this happens, the Bureau will be furnished with two copies of this bulletin.

b2  
b7D

The American States Rights Association, which is an organization incorporated in Birmingham, does not have any regularly published bulletin. However, mimeographed summaries of information pertaining to segregation are mailed occasionally to members. Four copies of some of this material were forwarded to the Bureau as enclosures with the report of SA CHARLES B. STANBERY, Birmingham, 1/19/56, in the case entitled, "AMERICAN STATES RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, IS-X,"(Bufile 105-27471).

Birmingham will forward two copies of any future material obtained, marked for attention of Central Research Section.

2 - Bureau (105-34237) (Reg.Mail)  
1 - BH (105-241)

CBS-fmb

(3)

5-1 to Birmingham from [REDACTED]  
re status of bulletins  
White Citizens Councils  
plan to publish.  
3-15-56 [REDACTED]

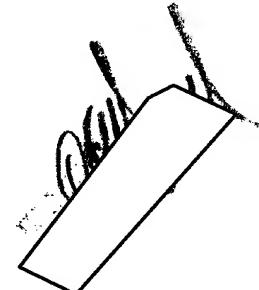
can be determined as far as  
being published in a regular  
bulletin. See [REDACTED] 3-22-56  
HANDED TO [REDACTED] 3-22-56

STOP DESK

RECORDED - 79

105-34237-179

1-27-56 SP

CENTRAL  
RESEARCH  
SECTIONb6  
b7C

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: 1-27-66

FROM : J. P. Mohr

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages A458-  
A461 Congressman Abbitt, (D) Virginia, extended his remarks concerning segregation in the public schools of Virginia. He also included an address by Congressman Tuck, (D) Virginia, on the same subject. Mr. Tuck stated in his address "In our daily Virginia newspapers, and in fact all over the Nation, a statement was published as coming from a high Justice Department official in Washington to the effect that such action as we contemplate to set up tuition grants for pupils to attend private schools rather than submit to the unconstitutional act of forced integration of the races would be declared invalid, and that individuals and organizations in Virginia and in the South are being investigated."

Original filed in: 123-1157

INDEXED - 79

105-281-180  
NOT RECORDED  
123 JAN 27 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/15/01 BY 6026MNL/SEP/2001  
91842

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for [redacted] was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

68 FEB 2 1966

b6  
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/15/01 BY 60471/LS

91942

AIR TEL

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

FBI, NEW ORLEANS

January 18, 1955

DIRECTOR

AIR TEL

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

IS - X

Re New York letter to Bureau January 13, 1956.

GUS COURTS, 1037 West Pearl St., Jackson, Miss., interviewed January 17, 1956, by SA's [ ] and LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., and in signed statement denies any knowledge of cancellation slip authorizing the Circuit Court to cancel registration of a registered voter and no such slip ever in his possession. Denies ever receiving such slip from [ ] or girl, by name of [ ] and both unknown to him.

COURTS claims did get typewritten slip from (FNU) [ ] colored male, employed [ ] containing some thirty names of Negro registered voters in Humphreys County, but does not know what happened to list. Believes nearly every white person in county had a copy.

In addition to above, COURTS volunteered that he had received from [ ] Belzoni, information on Miss. license tag 432-194, year unknown, which [ ] believes was license on car used by person or persons who shot COURTS.

According to COURTS, [ ] has been investigating case and if he is told that COURTS has been contacted and referred agents to him, he will disclose all information in his possession.

1955 Miss. license 432-194, according to [ ] MVC, [ ] State Office Building, was issued October, 1954, to [ ] Belzoni, for 1954 Buick coach. [ ] 1956 license 432-194 was issued October, 1955, to [ ] Belzoni, for 1952 Chevrolet coach, [ ]

CHILES

RECORDED-124

105-34237

③ - Bureau (105-34237) (AIR MAIL - REGISTERED)  
2 - Memphis (105-121) (AIR MAIL - REGISTERED)  
1 - New Orleans (105-492)

RHM:bs

Approved: [ ]

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

68 JUN 3 1955  
Special Agent in Charge  
Mr. Belzoni

FD-36
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. McManowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Mrs. Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/07 BY 60267NLS/EP(LS)

5-1

Date: January 20, 1956

To: SAC, New Orleans (# 707 )  
From: Director, FBI (#105-34237 )  
Attention: Central Research ~~SECTION~~ SPK  
Subject: Citizen's Councils And N.D. 105-587\*  
States' Rights Movements  
Internal Security-X

Publication:

Rebulet 12-6-55  
(V) Advise Bureau re status of subscription.

( ) Not necessary to forward issues listed below:  
( ) Forward following issues by routing slip:

NO OFFICE OBTAINING PUBLICATIONS OR  
LITERATURE OF ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS  
THROUGH ESTABLISHED SOURCES AND WILL  
FORWARD TO BUREAU

SERIALIZED  
FBI - NEW ORLEANS  
BUREAU

EB 2 4 REC'D  
DRAFT

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau.  
Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and  
acknowledgment of this communication.)

CENTRAL

105-34237-1  
NOT RECORDED

20 FEB 7 1956

64 FEB 9 1956

File 105-34237

PP 36 (6-21-55)

b6  
b7C

F B I

Date: 1/18/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, CHICAGO (100-31619)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS'  
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS - X

Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/14/01 BY 6-267 NLSEP/LLN

91942

Rebuairtel to New Orleans dated 1/10/56 and CG airtel  
to Director dated 1/4/56.

On January 16, 1956 [redacted] and [redacted]  
furnished SAs [redacted] and [redacted] signed  
statements consisting of information that was set forth in  
referenced CG airtel.

[redacted] advised that when he was first contacted by  
Bureau agents he was nervous and upset by the FBI being  
interested in the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi,  
and that due to excitement he forgot to tell Bureau agents about  
a letter which JASPER [redacted] received from the Association of  
Citizens' Councils in the latter part of August, 1955, which  
stated in part. "We want you and your friends, [redacted]  
and [redacted] to get yourselves ready for the Lord."

Information concerning this letter is incorporated  
in a signed statement furnished by [redacted] also  
furnished a clipping from the "Chicago Defender," a weekly  
Chicago newspaper, 9/10/55 issue, page 2, column 7, entitled  
"Hurl Death Threats At Two NAACP Chiefs."

Enclosed herewith to Memphis office are the above  
mentioned newspaper clipping and signed statements of [redacted]  
and [redacted]

RUC.

HOSTETTER

③ - Bureau (AM) (RM)  
2 - Memphis (105-121) (Encl. 3) (AM) (RM)  
2 - New Orleans (105-492) (AM) (RM)  
1 - Chicago  
WCC:PAK  
(8)

RECORDED 8

105-34237-180

2 JAN 20 1956

Approved: *Frank C. O'Malley* Sent *TNT* M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 9-29552-1

4-528

105-34237-182 (orig. dated  
9-26-56)  
**CHANGED TO**  
9-29552-4

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/18/01 BY 60267 RSEP(L5)  
918421

FEB 20 1956

Eo

C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

c= Mr. Willard

To: COMMUNICAT

RECORDED <sup>105-34237</sup> Transmit the following message to: (105-121)

AIRTEL

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI, IS-X.

Reference Chicago airtel January 18, 1956, concerning statements obtained from [ ] and [ ] Memphis is instructed to include the information in these statements in next report submitted on captioned organization.

Reference is also made to New Orleans airtel dated January 18, 1956, setting forth facts of interview with Gus Courts. This information should be set forth in the next report submitted by New Orleans on captioned organization.

As both offices are aware, investigation of captioned organization was discontinued January 18, 1956. On that date Memphis was telephonically instructed to submit a report immediately and to advise New Orleans to do likewise. It is expected that these reports will reach the Bureau no later than February 1, 1956. Your failure to meet this deadline will result in explanations being requested.

HOOVER

2cc - New Orleans (105-492)

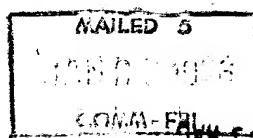
BUFFILE 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1/16/00 BY 652 (M) MLS/EP/L54

918421

CFW:dae  
(6)



ffon

Ber

OK BW.20

ENT VIA \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 1-27-56

FROM : SAC, ST. LOUIS (105-00)

SUBJECT: *o*  
CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES  
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - XALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-15-01 BY 6-367NLS  
9-16-02 EP/LS

Rebulet to Atlanta dated 11-3-55, Bulet to St. Louis dated 12-8-55 and Bulet to Memphis dated 12-6-55, all captioned matter

One non-evidentiary copy of the White Sentinel (Bufile 105-23407), official monthly organ of the National Citizens Protective Association, Inc. (Bufile 105-16510) and of the White American News Service, (Bufile 105-40997), official monthly news letter of the NCPA, Inc. is being furnished the Bureau "Attention: Central Research Section" on the monthly basis.

In view of rebulet to St. Louis re application of instructions contained in rebulet dated 11-3-55, some doubt exists as to whether NCPA Inc. comes within the purview of rebulet dated 12-6-55. Bureau advice is, therefore, sought as to whether instructions contained in rebulet dated 12-6-55, Page 1, contemplate the submission of copies of all documentary items emitted by the NCPA, Inc., including various letters to membership and other miscellaneous documentary items. It is noted that all evidentiary copies of all documentary items, including above-described publications, are maintained in St. Louis files and a related reference file consisting of one non-evidentiary copy of each of the above two publications is maintained.

2 - Bureau (105-34237)  
1 - St. Louis (105-00)  
1 - St. Louis (100-10834, NCPA, Inc.)  
CROC:dbs  
(4)

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED-38

105-34237-185

EX-107 JAN 28 1956

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-16510-1

cc [redacted]

b6  
b7C

SAC, St. Louis

February 3, 1956

Director, FBI (105-34237)

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'  
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reurlet January 27, 1956.

The instructions contained in Bulet to Memphis dated December 6, 1955, pertained primarily to Citizens Councils which have been formed in the South since the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, regarding integration in public schools.

It is not desirable that copies of all literature published by the National Citizens Protective Association as received by your office be furnished the Bureau. However, you should continue to furnish copies of "White Sentinel" and "White American News Service" and any other publication of the National Citizens Protective Association which are of similar importance.

cc - Bufile 105-16510 (NCPA)

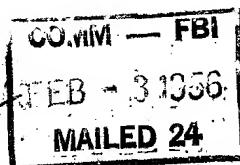
CFW:prh

(5)

*[Handwritten signature]*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/17/07 BY 62127 NLS/BS/PLW/VM  
*91842*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_



956

R/C  
W/C

W/C

FEB 6 1956 [initials]

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-16510 ✓

b6  
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI NEW ORLEANS

DIRECTOR FBI

AIR MAIL

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI  
IS-X

OO: MEMPHIS

ReRep SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR. (A),  
New Orleans, 1-6-56.

In line four of the synopsis, "All five state they are registered voters of Yazoo City and have not been denied the right to vote" should be changed to read "Three state they are registered voters of Yazoo City and have not been denied the right to vote."

ONI, OSI, and G-2 are being advised by letter to correct their copies of referenced report.

The Bureau has instructed that referenced report be de-classified. The <sup>SERVICE</sup> several agencies are being requested to de-classify referenced report.

CHILES.

3 - Bureau (AM) (105-34237)  
2 - Memphis (AM) (105-121)  
1 - New Orleans (105-492)

ZJVL:eo  
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY 4267NLSEP/LW  
914721

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

INT. 100

877-X  
RECORDED 8

105-34237-111

Mr. Belmont

MPC  
JF

b6  
b7C

Administrative  
Division

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

January 27, 1956

RECORDED - 8  
EX. - 118

105-34237-111  
DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

PERSONAL ATTENTION

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reurairtel dated January 19, 1956, in  
which you advised of a correction which should be  
made in the synopsis of the report of Special Agent  
Laurence J. Frank, Jr., dated January 6, 1956, at  
New Orleans.

You are instructed to furnish the Bureau the  
explanations of the agent and supervisor responsible  
for this error. You should also advise whether Special  
Agent Frank had an opportunity to read this report  
prior to it being forwarded to the Bureau. With these  
explanations you should furnish your recommendations  
for administrative action.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5/11/01 BY 66267 MSL/SEP/1999

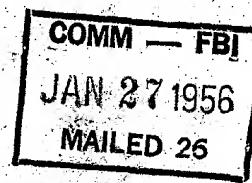
918421

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:mag

(5)

65 FEB 2 1956



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 1-27-56

FROM : SAC, Charlotte (105-331)

ATTENTION:

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND  
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - XCENTRAL RESEARCH SECTION

Rebulet 12-6-55, and Form 5-1 1-20-56.

Please be advised that the Patriots of North Carolina organization and the States Rights League of North Carolina are not as yet publishing any literature, based upon information available to the Charlotte Office.

In the event information is received by the Charlotte Office that they are publishing literature, steps will be taken to secure the information published by these organizations in order that it might be forwarded to the Central Research Section.

BDC:jb  
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/16/01 BY nmw/lb  
4/16/01 nmw/lb

EX-122

RECORDED - 4

105-34237-

INDEXED - 4  
JAN 20 1956

52 FEB 3 1956

CENTRAL RESEARCH  
INT SEC

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 24, 1956

b6  
b7C

✓  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Wadsworth  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

While I was on the Hill to see Senator Stennis, I took the occasion to drop by and visit with Congressman John Bell Williams of Mississippi. I had not seen him in some time and spent a while with him. You will recall that he has in the past defended your position in regard to the Harry Dexter White hearing.

Congressman Williams was very affable and friendly and asked to be advised if at any time he could be of assistance.

I will continue to keep in close contact with Congressman Williams. You will recall he has recently been quite prominent along with Senator Eastland in regard to the racial situation in Mississippi. He visited Russia this past year and it might be noted that he is a veteran of World War II and lost his left arm during the War.

I also dropped by and spoke with Congressman Frank Smith of Mississippi.

Congressman Jamie Whitten was out but I left word at his office that I had dropped by.

When I was talking to Congressman Smith, he advised me that [redacted] of Mississippi (it is not known whether he is related to Senator Stennis), who has been a district attorney in Mississippi, is now going to be on Governor Coleman's staff and he and Coleman are trying to approach the situation in Mississippi on a level-headed basis. They will attempt to eliminate the "hot-headed" activities of some of the people in Mississippi and try to solve the problem in a quieter manner. He stated he thought if at any time we desired any information or ran into any problems in Mississippi, that [redacted] would be glad to furnish us with any information we might desire to have. I thanked Congressman Smith for advising me of this and I do think if the occasion arises that [redacted] could be counted upon to be of assistance, especially through Congressman Frank Smith.

RECORDED - 3

64 FEB 7 1956

I will continue to maintain these contacts

62 FEB 7 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

JAN 25 1956

Respectfully,

F. C. Holloman CRIME REC.

FCH:ef

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-1990 BY 20858515

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATT.: CENTRAL RESEARCH SECTION

DATE: 1/24/56

FROM : *M* SAC, KNOXVILLE

*m3*  
SUBJECT: *O* CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'  
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

*mt*  
ReBulet 12/6/55.

The only literature so far published in the Knoxville Division by pro-segregation organizations is a pamphlet which was furnished SA [redacted] of this Division by [redacted] which pamphlet is summarized in mylet to the Bureau of 11/10/55 under the caption, "Tennessee Society for the Maintenance of Segregation; IS - X; Tennessee Society to Maintain Segregation". This pamphlet was the only one available to the informant and the original is being maintained in the Knoxville file.

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

We will be alert to secure and promptly furnish to the Bureau any literature which is published by pro-segregation organizations in this area.

*O* 2 - Bureau (105-34237)  
2 - Knoxville (1 - 105-122  
1 - 100-3200)

SSA:at  
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/11/81 BY 60267NLS/PLS

916421

E-122  
RECORDED-38

30  
28 JAN 1956

b6  
b7C

65 FEE 2 1956

CENTRAL RESEARCH  
INTERNAL SECURITY

472

Office M

m • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237) DATE: January 30, 1956  
 FROM : *C.W.* SAC, Miami ATTENTION: CENTRAL RESEARCH SECTION  
 SUBJECT: *#* (100-13407)

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES.  
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ReBulet December 6, 1955, and Bureau Routing Slip  
 dated January 20, 1956.

Following receipt of referenced letter, the Miami office rented a blind Post Office Box for the purpose of receiving literature from this group and other Klan organizations. The Resident Agents were alerted to secure any literature put out in their territories.

To date no literature has been received from any of these sources. However, Miami will continue to be alert for any literature and upon receipt of same will immediately transmit it to the Bureau.

2 - Bureau (105-34237) (RM)  
 1 - Miami (100-13407)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 11/16/01 BY 60267NLS/EPW/M

918421

LOP:lc  
 (3)

Various literature received  
 from Miami by up to [redacted]  
 by [redacted] to subject of letter  
 5.1 to Miami requesting the office  
 advised if any publications are  
 issued on regular basis,  
 shown any adverse investigation has not  
 Miami any indication that the are  
 Citizens Councils in Florida are  
 being published on a regular  
 basis. 3-2-56 b6 [redacted] see division 5-1  
 dated 3-2-56 b6 [redacted]

RECORDED-42

105-34237-188

NO JAN 31 1956

EX - 107

CENTRAL RESEARCH  
 INTERNAL SECURITY

5-2 FEB 3 1956

## Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

b6  
b7C~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

DATE

5/25/82

BY SP-8873/MWD

SP8873/108

6-19-90

80-3969

9-5-96 Sp4 bja trf # 361841

R

Tolson  
Boardman  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Sizoo  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

While talking to Senator James Eastland (D., Miss.) on other matters, he pointed out that the Citizens Councils which we are investigating have already rendered a very stabilizing service in Mississippi and that in his opinion the Citizens Councils will prove to be the medium which will prevent the "hotheads" and "rednecks" which he described as the "white trash" from committing acts of atrocities upon negroes. He further stated that the only approach the Citizens Councils are using is that of economic, although he pointed out there are some 80,000 members. There are bound to be a few of the wrong type who could cast a reflection upon the good people.

The Senator told me that there is a determined effort being made in his state to hold down any incidents, although a feeling is beginning to mount among some of the negroes themselves against the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and others. For example, he stated that the manager of his farm made \$10,000 last year. The NAACP tried to get him to join and make contributions. The manager refused and stated that the NAACP would do more harm than good.

The Senator further stated that the people in Mississippi believe that the shooting of Gus Corts was framed by the NAACP. I asked him how this could be established or proven. He stated he doubted it could be proven and that the feeling was based upon the fact that no one has seen Corts' wounds. Corts was taken to an NAACP doctor thirty-five miles away and then was taken to another place some sixty-five miles away.

The Senator further stated that

b7D  
UNRECORDED COPY FILED  
UNRECORDED COPY FILED  
UNRECORDED COPY FILED

cc: Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
LBN:arm  
(4)

NO ACTION  
INDEXED  
RECORDED  
105-34231-189  
13 JAN 31 1956  
INT SEC  
FBI - WASH D.C.  
1956

Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols  
RE: CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

[Redacted]

While I was sitting in his office, he had a call from an individual whom he called Tom, and in conversation, he told Tom to watch for a letter which Mr. Hoover was sending to [redacted] that the letter was excellent and the Director is pretty strong in his language [redacted]. The Senator later told me that Tom owned a couple of newspapers in Mississippi.

I believe Tom Hederman is  
editor of JACKSON, Miss. CLARION-  
Ledge, one of two largest papers  
in Miss. with state wide circulation -  
A.T.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b6  
b7c

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. 2/1/56

Transmit the following message to: SAC, MEMPHIS URGENT

ACCM, IS DASH X. REBUTEL CALL JANUARY EIGHTEEN, LAST, AND BUAIIRTEL JANUARY TWENTYTHREE, LAST, INSTRUCTING IMMEDIATE SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON ACCM. SUBMIT REPORT TO REACH BUREAU BY FEBRUARY SIX, NEIT. ALSO SUBMIT EXPLANATIONS FOR DELAY IN THIS MATTER.

HOOVER

BUREAU 105-34237

CFW:als:dae  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/15/01 BY [Signature]

X 918421

NOTE ON YELLOW:

On January 18, 1956, Memphis was telephonically instructed to discontinue full investigation of Association of Citizens Councils in Mississippi and to submit report immediately. In referenced airtel Memphis again instructed to submit report promptly.

EX-122

RECORDED

105-34237

100

RECEIVED READING ROOM

1 PM '56

16 FEB 2 1956

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

LEO COPIES DESTROYED

47 MAY 10 1972

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

50 FEB 6 1956  
TELETYPE

5 FEB 8 1956  
SENT VIA

2-03 P.M.

Per DRD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-22-2001 BY SP/KW/HY 416421

5-1

Date: January 20, 1956

To: SAC, Pittsburgh (# )

From: Director, FBI (#105-34237 )  
Attention: Central Research SECTION

Subject: Citizen's Councils and  
State's Rights Movements  
Internal Security - X

Publication: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rebullet 12-6-55

Advise Bureau re status of subscription.

( ) Not necessary to forward issues listed below:

( ) Forward following issues by routing slip:

Re Pgh. let to Bureau 12/8/55

Re let advised no evidence of any  
organization formed for purpose of  
maintaining segregation. Therefore no  
arrangements can be made to secure  
literature being published by such  
organizations

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau.  
Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and  
acknowledgment of this communication.)

10 CENTRAL SEARCH  
105-34237

105-34237  
NOT RECORDED

File 105-34237 FEB 2 1956

Citizen's Councils and  
State's Rights Movements

33600 3 1956

bx  
5-1

Date: January 20, 1956

To: SAC, Oklahoma City #  
From: Director, FBI (# 105-34237)  
Attention: Central Research ~~Section~~ SECTION  
Subject: Citizens Councils and  
State's Rights Movements  
Internal Security - X

Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

( Publet 12-605) Advise Bureau re status of subscription.  
( Not necessary to forward issues listed below:  
( Forward following issues by routing slip:

No literature being circulated  
by the Citizens Council Against  
Desegregation, Ala., Oklahoma City  
Citizens Councils. Ocfila # 105-206.

HR  
Date 1/20/56  
UNCLASSIFIED  
91842/28/56

105-34237

NOT RECORDED JAN 21 1956

17 FEB 12 1956

510001

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau.  
Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and  
acknowledgment of this communication.)

105-206

BT  
B3 FEB 3 1956

File 105-34237

Central Research



*Following receipt of information*

Bureau letter 12-2655, Miami  
rented a blind P. O. box to receive  
literature through correspondence  
but none received to date.

Resident agents likewise have  
been alerted to secure this  
literature. Literature will be  
furnished as soon as received.

C E Weeks  
SAC

CENTRAL RESEARCH SECTION  
FBI

JAN 26 4 50 PM '56

13 FEB 7 1956 H1

File 10

5-1

Date: January 20, 1956

To: SAC, Kansas City (# )  
From: Director, FBI (# 105-34237 )  
Attention: Central Research SECTION  
Subject: Citizen's Councils and  
States' Rights Movements  
Internal Security-X

Publication:

Rebulet 12-6-55  
Advises Bureau re status of subscription.

( ) Not necessary to forward issues listed below:  
( ) Forward following issues by routing slip:

No additional literature has been disseminated by subject organization which had previously引起 the attention of the K.C. office. The Bureau will be promptly furnished any literature or publications disseminated by subject organization in the future.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau.  
Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

105-34237-  
NOT RECORDED  
6 FEB 3 1956

68 FEB 7 1956

File 105-34237

Central Research

obj

5-1

Date: January 20, 1956

To: [initials] SAC, Mobile (# )  
From: [initials] Director, FBI (# 105-34237 )  
Attention: Central Research ~~SECTION~~  
Subject: Citizen's Councils and 105-167  
States' Rights Movements  
Internal Security - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/24/08 BY SP/CSS

Publication:

( Rebutlet 12-6-55) Advise Bureau re status of subscription.  
( Not necessary to forward issues listed below:  
( Forward following issues by routing slip:

No literature being published  
on regular basis by citizen  
Councils in all the Southern States  
Rights Orgs. in Dixie, However,  
Literature put out at meetings  
obtained and pertinent material  
will be furnished  
Bureau

105-34237  
NOT RECORDED

29 FEB 3 1956

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau.  
Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and  
acknowledgment of this communication.)

RECD FEB 7 1956

File 105-34237

Central Research

SAC, New Orleans (105-492)

January 31, 1956

Director, FBI

① **ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - X**

Rerep of Special Agent Laurence J. Frank, Jr.,  
dated January 23, 1956.

The Bureau desires that you continue to conduct discreet and limited inquiries concerning the captioned organization and continue to submit reports reflecting the results of these inquiries. Therefore, the status of copies of rerep furnished the Bureau has been changed to pending. You are instructed to change your copies accordingly.

You are reminded that the Bureau desires no active investigation of this organization. Your inquiries should be conducted in accordance with instructions set forth in SAC Letter 55-66.

cc - Memphis (105-121) (For Information)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/10/01 BY SP247 NLS/EP/HWJ

91421

COMM — FBI  
JAN 31 1956  
MAILED 24

105-34237-191

RECORDED-20

8 FEB 1 1956

CFW:gft  
(5)

EX-107

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

31 FEB 8 1956

7 FEB 8 1956

9 1/3/K  
w/att/k  
CPMK

Office Memorandum

ID FORM NO. 64

• UNITED

GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: January 25

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

WO:MWH:vmw

SUBJECT: Associations of Citizens Councils of  
Mississippi; Robert B. Patterson  
Internal Security - X

144-2-130

Reference is made to your memorandum of December 27, 1955, indicating that Robert B. Patterson, Executive Secretary, Associations of Citizens Councils, had indicated that he would now be willing to furnish us with a copy of a recording previously requested by us in connection with the Hoxie, Arkansas, school integration situation.

In view of the fact that our request was not honored at that time and of the further fact that we have no assurance that the copy now offered would be genuine, it is believed that it would be better not to accept Mr. Patterson's offer. Therefore no further efforts need be made to obtain the recording.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Nease
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

JAN 27 1956

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/15/01 BY 6026/NL/SEP/15

918421

INDEXED

RECORDED-89

20 JAN 27 1956

EX-101

SEARCHED  
INDEXED

FEB 7 1956

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

February 3, 1956

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS  
OF MISSISSIPPI  
UNIVERSAL ENCOUNTER —  
FBI FILE 105-14237

There are being furnished you herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent George A. Everett dated February 1, 1956, at Memphis, Tennessee, and one copy of the report of Special Agent Laurence J. Frank, Jr., dated January 23, 1956, at New Orleans, Louisiana, both concerning the captioned organization.

These reports contain the results of the investigation requested by you. No additional investigation of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi is contemplated; however, this Bureau will continue to follow the activities of this organization through limited inquiries. The results of these inquiries will be furnished you promptly.

Enclosures (2)

RECORDED - 98 /05-34237

NOTE ON YELLOW:

277-23  
16 FEB 3 1956

In memorandum Belmont to Boardman dated 1/19/56 background of this organization and results of investigation set forth. This memorandum reflected that on 1/18/56 Memphis was instructed to discontinue investigation and advise New Orleans to do likewise. It was recommended the Department be advised upon receipt of reports that further investigation is contemplated.

Original & carbon copies  
Hand carried to office  
by [redacted] in  
Dept. 9:55 AM 2/3/56  
Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CFW:gft  
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/15/07 BY [redacted]

08 FEB 7 1956

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

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